

LYNCHING RECORD 1929

(REVISED REPORT)

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research, Tuskegee Institute, there were 10 persons lynched in 1929. This is 1 less than the number 11 for 1928, 6 less than the number 16 for 1927, 20 less than the number 30 for 1926 and 7 less than the number 17 for 1925. Six of the persons lynched were taken from the hands of the law, 5 from jail and 1 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 27 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of these were in Northern States and 24 in Southern States. In 24 of the cases the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 3 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. 12 white men, 20 Negro men and 2 Negro women were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 10 persons lynched, 7 were Negroes and 3 were whites. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; writing insulting notes, 2; murder, 1; wounding man in altercation, 1; wounding officers of the law, 2; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 4; Kentucky, 1; Mississippi, 1; Tennessee, 1; Texas, 3.

Compiled by Monroe N. Work, Director
Records and Research Department
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

Lynching 1929
Cases of
**Florida Negro Lynched
For Attacking Girl**

BROOKSVILLE, FLA., Feb. 20.—(P)—The lynching Monday night of "Buster" Allen, 18-year-old negro who had been arrested on suspicion of attacking white girl at Croom, near here, became known today following the finding of his body hanging from a tree near the spot where the crime was committed.

A fake letter was used by two men to get the negro out of the county jail at Tampa, where he had been taken to avoid possible violence after his capture. The letter purported to contain orders from Sheriff H. D. Cobb, of Hernando County, to deliver the prisoner to the bearers for his return here.

Allen's body was found yesterday by passing motorists.

A special session of the Grand Jury has been summoned to investigate the lynching.

BOY IS LYNCHED IN FLA.

Youth Accused of Attacking White Woman Found Hanging From Tree After Being Freed

BROOKSVILLE, Fla., Feb. 21.—The first lynching in the United States to go on record in the year of 1929 occurred near this town, Monday. The victim was an 18-year-old Race boy, Buster Allen, who was arrested on suspicion in connection with an alleged attack upon a white woman.

Young Allen, who was a member of one of the best known Race families in this section, was picked up as a suspect by the police after the woman reported that a boy had assaulted her on the highway.

He was placed in jail at Tampa. He was turned loose when two whites presented an order for his

release purported to be from the Sheriff of Hernando County. He was never seen alive after leaving the jail. His body, badly mutilated, was found swinging from a tree about 25 miles from town the next morning.

No arrests were made following the crime. A grand jury investigation will be made it was said. The sheriff stated that the order bearing his signature was forgery.

Row Over Rubbish Ends With White Man Being Lynched By Florida Mob

LAKE CITY, FLA., May 17.—(P)—A white man, N. G. Romeo, Lake City grocer, was lynched near here early today, several hours after his wife had been fatally wounded in a gun battle with the chief of police.

A coroner's jury went to the spot in a ditch two miles from here where Romeo's body was found and returned a verdict that he met his death at the hands of parties unknown.

The jury also found that Chief of Police John F. Baker had acted in self-defense in shooting the woman five times after she had fired three shots at Baker, breaking his shoulder blade.

Romeo's body, full of bullet wounds and sitting upright in the ditch, was found by a farmer coming into town this morning. Authorities brought it here. Romeo had been jailed last night.

Authorities said trouble started yesterday after Romeo was notified to clean up some rubbish in front of his store. He had finally agreed, they said, to take inside his store boxes which had been put on the sidewalk, but afterwards removed them again to the sidewalk and telephoned Chief Baker to "try and make him move it back."

Baker went to the store and an argument ensued. Mrs. Romeo was charged with having grabbed a pistol and fired defense three shots at the chief, who then returned the fire, wounding the woman five times. She died at midnight.

Sheriff "Babe" Douglas said a mob forced the lock and bars on Romeo's cell and took him away. The officer declared he had no idea as to the identity of the mob or the number of persons that composed it. Two negro prisoners who were in the jail at the time could give no information concerning the mob. Police said they were drunk and probably were unaware of the mob's visit.

Romeo formerly lived at Valdosta, Ga. He went to Florida three years ago after having been flogged by a band of masked men near Valdosta.

FLORIDA LYNCHING PROBE IS STARTED

Lake City, Fla., May 18.—(P)—The lynching of E. R. Romeo, a grocer, and the fatal shooting of his wife today was the subject of investigation by Sheriff W. B. Douglas, who has

Florida.

Lake City, Fla., May 17.—(P)—Official investigation was ordered by Governor Doyle E. Carlton tonight into the lynching early today of E. R. Romeo, Syrian fish and produce merchant, and the fatal wounding of his wife during an altercation with police late last night.

Romeo's body, pierced by 13 bullets, was found in a ditch two miles south of here early today by Spencer Colson, farmer boy, after the produce merchant had come out from the small brick city jail by a mob, which gained entrance to the building by forcing the front door. His wife died about midnight from bullet wounds received during an argument with Chief of Police John F. Baker, who also was shot.

Taking three other officers with him, Baker went to Romeo's store Thursday afternoon. When the officers entered, Romeo reached behind a counter. Thinking the merchant was reaching for a gun, one of the officers grabbed him.

As Romeo was being escorted from the store, his wife fired three times, one of the bullets striking Chief Baker in the right shoulder, breaking the shoulder blade. His condition is not serious.

Pulling his revolver with his left hand, Chief Baker shot Mrs. Romeo in the right side, right shoulder and left arm. She died in a hospital about midnight.

Sheriff W. B. Douglas said that about 4:30 o'clock this morning a policeman called him and said that the Romeo had been lynched. An investigation immediately was started, but tonight no clews had been uncovered.

An examination of Romeo's cell in the city jail failed to show any marks of an instrument having been used to pry off the lock. Neither were there any filings on the floor, had a jury has been summoned to investigate the lynching.

Sheriff Douglas and Chief Baker declared they had no clew as to the identity of any member of the mob or its size.

Two negroes, Joe and John Foster, who were in the jail at the time of the lynching, were non-committal, declaring they were drunk when arrested last night and that they heard no commotion around the building early today.

The coroner's jury returned a verdict stating that Romeo came to his death at the hands of unknown parties. In the case of his wife, the verdict said she came to her death at the hands of Chief Baker, who "shot in self-defense." The verdict recommended that the officer be absolved of all blame.

Late today Sheriff Douglas received a telegram from the office of Governor Carlton ordering "an investigation and full report" of the killings.

LYNCH YOUTH IN FLORIDA

2840

Mob Hangs Boy to Tree; Riddles His Body With Bullets

VICTIM RELEASED FROM JAIL ON WRITTEN ORDER

Letter Purporting to Be Order from Sheriff Now Declared a Forgery.

BROOKSVILLE, Fla., Feb. 27—(P)—Florida added a lynching to its winter sports here Monday night when Buster Allen, an 18-year-old youth, accused of attacking a white girl, was taken from local jail and hanged to a tree near the spot where the crime was supposed to have been committed.

As Romeo was being escorted from the jail, two men came to the jail bearing a letter purporting to be from Sheriff Cobb of Hernando County. This letter ordered the jailer to turn the prisoner over to the bearers of the letter. This was done and Tuesday morning

motorists found the youth's body hanging from a tree near Croom. A special session of the grand jury has been summoned to investigate the lynching.

Sheriff Cobb declares that the letter was a cotton wood tree near grand jury is called, supposedly to instruct them to transfer the boy Brooksville. The body was riddled whitewash the hideous murder, as there any filings on the floor, had a jury has been summoned to investigate the lynching.

BOY AT TAMPA

Daily Worker
Taken from Jail on an Order to Transfer
New York

TAMPA, Fla., Feb. 20.—An 18-year-old Negro boy charged but not even given a hearing on a mythical statutory offense, has been found dead after being murdered by white lynchers here.

The boy, Buster Allen, was in the Tampa jail, when on Monday night two men presented a letter signed,

"Sheriff Cobb of Hernando County," neat a cotton wood tree near grand jury is called, supposedly to instruct them to transfer the boy Brooksville. The body was riddled whitewash the hideous murder, as there any filings on the floor, had a jury has been summoned to investigate the lynching.

Tampa police today, however, presented at the Tampa jail is a forged letter. Although this is with bullets and indicated that he is customary in such murders of unarmed Negroes by whites.

LYNCHING IN FLORIDA

Negro Taken from Tampa Jail and Put to Death

Brooksville, Fla., Feb. 20.—Buster Allen, Negro, who was taken from the Hillsborough county jail at Tampa Monday night, a subterfuge and shot and hanged near here, came to his death by lynching at the hands of unknown parties, according to a verdict of a coroner's jury.

Frank Carter, jailer at Tampa, who released the prisoner to a man giving the name of L. M. Martin and representing himself to be a deputy, testified that the man handed him a note supposedly signed by Sheriff W. D. Cobb of Brooksville, ordering the return of the prisoner to Brooksville.

white girls as the Negro who beat Tampa Tuesday a week ago after he was identified by a 16-year old

Allen, the Negro, was taken to and attacked her while she was on her way to school.

county jailers by presenting forged release papers for Allen. The youth was brought here by the sheriff of Hernando county Feb. 12, the same day of the alleged attack, for safe-keeping, after the mob bent on lynching Allen had been eluded.

Caught Fishing

Allen was arrested while fishing near his home at Croom, 12 miles from Brooksville. The youth denied having any knowledge of the attack, stating he had not been near Brooksville. His "victim," however, said he was the guilty man. The sheriff, in turning over his prisoner to the jailers here, left specific instructions that the presence of Allen in the jail here was not to be divulged.

Last Monday night a fake deputy, giving the name of L. M. Martin, went to the jail with a letter purported to have been signed by Sheriff W. D. Cobb, for the release of Allen to him. The letter, written on stationery of the Hernando county sheriff, was turned over to Frank Carter, night jailer, who released Allen to his horrible death.

Jury Dismisses Probe

The mobbist deputy displayed his credentials and handcuffed Allen in the jail, meanwhile explaining that the youth was to go on trial the next day. It later was learned that Cobb had no deputy named Martin.

A special grand jury investigating the lynching of Allen adjourned last Wednesday after an hour's session, reporting that it had insufficient evidence to return any indictments.

Inverness, Fla., Chronicle
Friday, February 22, 1929

YOUTH SENT

TO DOOM BY

MOB LYNCHES NEGRO NEAR BROOKSVILLE FOR ALLEGED ATTACK ON WHITE GIRL

Was Taken to the Hillsboro County Jail for Safe Keeping, But Mob Secured Him Through Forged Letter to Sheriff Hatton

Bullet-Riddled Body Found on Tree

Tampa, Fla., March 1.—The bullet-riddled body of Buster Allen, 18-year-old youth, dangling by a rope from the limb of a tree where it had been left by a mob, was discovered last tacked.

Tuesday afternoon by a passing motorist on the Tampa-Brooksville highway, near Brooksville. The youth had been charged with attacking a girl.

Members of a Brooksville mob, posing as deputy sheriffs from Hernando county, came here last Monday night and succeeded to have worked a ruse

Members of a mob posing as Her-fake deputy giving the name of L. nando county sheriff's deputies work M. Martin, went to the Hillsborough ed a ruse on a Hillsborough county jail with a letter purported to have jailer Monday night, obtained the re-been signed by Sheriff Cobb, for re-

lease of Buster Allen, negro, wholease of the negro to him. The letter, jury, said "Martin" apparently had criminally attacked a 16-year oldwritten on stationery of the Her-white girl in Hernando county Febru-nando county sheriff, was turned over ary 12, and lynched him near Croom, to Frank Carter, night jailer, who re-12 miles from Brooksville, at theleased the prisoner after a brief in-exact spot where the girl was at-vestigation.

The negro was taken into custody "Martin" displayed his credentials no haste to leave. The same day of the attack, positivelyand handcuffed the negro in the jail, identified by the girl, and Sheriff W. Carter said, meanwhile explaining that the negro came to his death by D. Cobb, of Hernando county, eludingthat he was to go on trial in the lynching at the hands of parties un-a mob bent on lynching, rushed himHernando county circuit court nextknown.

to the Hillsboro county jail that nightday. There was another man in for safe keeping. He signed for the "Martin's" automobile, the jailer said, prisoner and left, with specific in-but he did not enter the jail. "Martin" structions that the presence of thehad explained he was another deputy. negro in the jail not be divulged. The letter dated February 18, (Mon-

Monday night about 10 o'clock, a day) read: "Please release to my

deputy, L. M. Martin, the prisoner, Reports were current that Gover-Buster Allen, held by you. (Signed) nor Carlton would order an investi-W. D. Cobb, sheriff Hernando county." gation into the lynching, but he left

It developed that Sheriff Cobb has the capitol at noon for the Central no deputy named Martin.

Tampa Jailer Suspended

Carter was temporarily suspended by Sheriff Hatton yesterday, pending outcome of an investigation. The jailer said that before releasing the prisoner, he compared the signature on the letter with that of Sheriff Cobb, made when he signed for the prisoner February 12, and that the handwriting appeared identical.

Bullet-Riddled Body Found

The bullet-riddled body of the negro dangling from the limb of a tree, about 75 feet from the Tampa-Brooks-ville highway, was discovered Tues-day afternoon by a passing motorist, who notified Sheriff Cobb. A subse-quent investigation disclosed he was comparison, was signed by him. We the same negro Sheriff Cobb had had photostat copies made of both taken to Tampa six days before for signatures and experts say the hand-safe keeping, and it was not until writing appears identical. Under the then that Jailer Carter learned he had circumstances I cannot see that Car-been doped into turning the attacker ter should be blamed altogether."

No Indictments

Hatton Comes to Brooksville The grand jury which was called Circuit Judge Fred L. Stringer call-by Judge Stringer to investigate the ed a special session of the grand jury lynch-ing, found no evidence for an Wednesday morning to investigate the indictment and adjourned Thursday lynch-ing. Sheriff Hatton and W. E. afternoon.

Van Loon, head of the criminal department of the sheriff's office went to Brooksville Wednesday to be present for the grand jury session and join Sheriff Cobb in an investigation of the mob members.

Before leaving Tampa Sheriff Hat-ton said strong evidence already had been developed to identify "Martin."

Carter, testifying before the grand jury, said "Martin" apparently had been a deputy sheriff at some time because he talked familiarly on the procedure in such cases. He testi-fied the two men who went to the jail in Tampa for the negro drove a Ford coupe and appeared to be in

"Martin" Had Credentials

A coroner's jury returned a verdict identifying the girl, and Sheriff W. Carter said, meanwhile explaining that the negro came to his death by

D. Cobb, of Hernando county, eludingthat he was to go on trial in the lynching at the hands of parties un-

a mob bent on lynching, rushed himHernando county circuit court nextknown.

E. C. May Conducting Inquiry

E. C. May, of Inverness, district attorney, is conducting the inquiry which was adjourned Wednesday night to meet again Thursday morning.

Lynchings - 1929.

Cases of
MOB LYNCHES FLORIDAN.

Taken From Jail After Fight In
Which Wife Was Killed.

LAKE CITY, Fla., May 17.—
(AP)—N. G. Romey, a grocer, was
taken from the jail here by a mob
earlier today and lynched two miles
south of here, where his body was
found by a farmer. The man was
arrested last night after an alter-
cation with police, during which
Chief of Police John H. Baker was
wounded and Mrs. Romey was
wounded fatally. 5-18-34

Romey's body, containing many
bullet wounds, was found sitting
upright in a ditch on the Columbia
Road.

Romey's trouble with the author-
ties started yesterday when Chief
of Police Baker told him that he
would have to clean up some rub-
bish in front of his store.

Mrs. Romey, who joined in the
altercation, is alleged to have pro-
cured a pistol and fired three shots
at Baker, one of which broke the
officer's shoulder blade.

Chief Baker then opened fire on
the woman, wounding her five
times. She died in a hospital about
midnight. Romey was arrested.

Judge Gillem said he did not
know exactly when the lynching
took place, but thought it was
about 4 o'clock this morning.

Florida.

2841

Lynchings - 1929 2842

PROBE BEGUN IN LYNCHING

County and State Officials
Start Investigation of
Hanging

QUINCY, Fla., Nov. 10.—(P)—
County and state officials began an investigation today into the lynching here last night of Will Larkins, negro, charged with criminal attack, by a mob of between 35 and 40 masked men.

Less than 12 hours after he had been indicted by a special grand jury and special term of court had been called for his trial, Larkins' body, bullet riddled, was dragged through the streets of Quincy tied to the rear of an automobile. Later it was burned.

The shooting of the negro and the burning of the body took place at the scene of the attack, about a mile from here just off the Midway highway.

The negro was forcibly taken from Sheriff Gregory at the point of shotguns ten miles east of Madison, at seven o'clock last night. The sheriff was taking Larkins to the Duval county jail, at Jacksonville, under orders of Governor Doyle Carlton, after the negro had previously been placed in the Madison jail for safekeeping following earlier mob threats.

The sheriff said he did not recognize any members of the band.

Two hours after the negro was taken from the sheriff, he was carried back to the scene of the crime, and there, Gregory said, was literally shot to pieces. The dragging through the streets and the returning of the body to the crime scene from burning followed.

The girl, about 12 years old, was attacked last Friday as she was going home from school.

Officers said the girl identified Larkins as her assailant.

That night, a crowd began to gather in front of the jail shortly after Larkins had been arrested. The sheriff, fearing violence, took the negro to Tallahassee for safe keeping. The next day the presence of Larkins in the capital jail became known and Sheriff Frank Stoutamire of Leon county, also fearing trouble, had the negro taken to the Madison county jail.

The transfer to the Duval county jail was attempted then.

Negro Lynched For an Attack On Young Girl

Taken from Sheriff While
Being Brought Here for
Safe-Keeping.

Bound for the Duval county jail for safekeeping in the custody of Sheriff G. Scott Gregory of Gadsden county, following his indictment by a Gadsden county grand jury on a charge of criminally assaulting a 12-year-old Quincy girl, Will Larkins, negro, was seized near Live Oak and lynched, according to a story told here last night by Sheriff Gregory.

Confirmation of the lynching was received here last night from Quincy. Dispatches said the negro had been lynched at a railroad grade crossing, one mile and a quarter from Quincy. His body was hung with a wire rope and riddled with bullets. The lynching took place around 9 o'clock.

Sheriff Gregory, stopping at the Aragon hotel here last night, said that the negro was taken from him somewhere between the Madison county jail and the Suwannee county line. He said that a party of masked men held him, and three officers accompanying him here with the negro up with shot guns and pistols while they removed the negro from his car into theirs and whisked him away toward Quincy.

Sheriff Gregory said that he had made every effort to remove the negro from danger. He said the negro had been placed in three different jails since his arrest in order to prevent assembling mobs from reaching him.

Larkins was arrested by Sheriff Gregory in Quincy Thursday after complaint had been made to his office. Positive identification followed and the grand jury, which had adjourned Tuesday, was called back into session. An indictment on a charge of criminal assault resulted.

When mobs began to form at Quincy and whispers of a lynching began to reach him, Sheriff Gregory said he moved the negro to the Leon county highway, thinking that an automobile jail at Tallahassee for safekeeping. The accident had occurred. As they halted, an unidentified masked man pointed a shotgun at the officer and demanded the negro, explaining that there would be no trouble if Larkins was turned over to the mob.

More mobs began to form in Tallahassee and Quincy Friday night. Sheriff Gregory said, and he secretly moved the negro to the Madison county jail, thinking that he would be safe there.

Sheriff Gregory said that he was presented yesterday with an official order from Judge E. C. Love of circuit court for his district, to remove the negro from the Madison jail to the Duval county jail.

Sheriff Gregory, E. P. Woodward, chairman of the Gadsden county com-

mission; W. M. Inman, another member of the commission, and T. R. Nazworth, chief deputy, took the negro from the Madison jail last night just after sundown, the sheriff said.

First inkling that an additional mob had formed and preceded them was given him, Sheriff Gregory said, when he was halted on the road before he reached the Suwannee county line. A party of forty masked men swarmed about his car he said.

While held at the point of a gun by a man that evidently knew him, Sheriff Gregory said, he was informed that "we want that negro and we're going to have him." Sheriff Gregory said the negro had been transferred to another car and whisked away in the space of two minutes. He said that he did not know what had become of the negro until informed of his lynching while at the local hotel.

STATE, COUNTY OFFICERS INVESTIGATE LYNCHING

Negro's Body Is Dragged
Through City Streets Bul-
let Ridden by Mob.

Quincy, Fla., November 10.—(P)—County and state officials began an investigation today into the lynching here last night of Will Larkins, negro, charged with criminal attack, by a mob of between 35 and 40 masked men.

Less than twelve hours after he had been indicted by a special grand jury and special term of court had been called for his trial, Larkins, negro, bullet riddled, was dragged through the streets of Quincy, tied to the rear of an automobile. Later it was burned.

The shooting of the negro and the burning of the body took place at the scene of the attack, about a mile from here just off the Midway highway.

The negro was forcibly taken from Sheriff Gregory at the point of shotguns ten miles east of Madison, at 7 o'clock last night. The sheriff was taking Larkins to the Duval county jail, at Jacksonville, under orders of Governor Doyle Carlton, after the negro had previously been placed in the Madison jail for safekeeping following earlier mob threats.

According to the sheriff, he and his deputies stopped when the masked mob appeared before them on the moved the negro to the Leon county highway, thinking that an automobile jail at Tallahassee for safekeeping. The accident had occurred. As they halted, an unidentified masked man pointed a shotgun at the officer and demanded the negro, explaining that there would be no trouble if Larkins was turned over to the mob.

Gregory said he told the man that he would not give up the negro. Then another man pointed his shot gun at him and repeated the demand for the negro. While they argued, Gregory said, other members of the mob seized Larkins and carried him away.

The sheriff said he did not recognize any members of the band.

Two hours after the negro was taken from the sheriff, he was carried back to the scene of the crime,

and there, Gregory said, was literally shot to pieces. The dragging through the streets and the returning of the body to the crime scene for burning soon followed.

The girl, about 12 years old, was attacked last Friday as she was going home from school. Larkins is alleged to have been talking with a negro woman on the highway when she passed. He followed the child into the woods and attacked her, the sheriff declared.

Officers said the girl identified Larkins as her assailant.

That night, a crowd began to gather in front of the jail shortly after Larkins had been arrested. The sheriff, fearing violence, took the negro to Tallahassee for safe keeping. The next day the presence of Larkins in the capital jail became known and Sheriff Frank Stoutamire of Leon county, also fearing trouble, had the negro taken to the Madison county jail.

The transfer to the Duval county jail was attempted then.

LEADER

Tarpon Springs, Fla.

NOV 5 1929
Mob Lynches Negro
In Hernando County

Brooksville, Nov. 4.—The lynching of a negro near here about 10 days ago was revealed over the week end with the discovery of his bullet-riddled and burned body in a shallow grave, 10 miles southwest of town.

The victim had been shot several times and then burned. The body was badly decomposed and it was determined to be that of a negro by a small patch of hair on the back of the head. A physician's examination revealed that he had been dead approximately 10 days.

Hernando county authorities expressed the opinion that the negro had been brought here by a mob from elsewhere, killed and buried.

THREE JAILS NOT STRONG ENOUGH FOR FLA. MOB

Forty Masked Men Hang Man With Wire Rope.

BODY RIDDLED

Towed Through Streets and then Burned.

QUINCY, Fla. (Special)—Three Florida jails, including one at the capital of the State, Tallahassee, were not strong enough to prevent the lynching of William Larkins near here Saturday night.

Larkins' body was hung with a wire rope and riddled with bullets. The lynching took place at 9 p.m. Forty white masked men participated while hundreds looked on.

The bloody remains were then tied to the rear axle of an auto and dragged through the colored section of the town. Later it was burned at the scene of the alleged attack.

Larkins was accused of attacking a 12-year-old white girl.

The accused was arrested here Thursday and indicted for criminal assault by a special grand jury the same day.

Rumors of a mob caused Sheriff G. Scott Gregory to move the prisoner to the state capital at 2 o'clock Friday morning.

Whispers of a mob again led the sheriff to transfer the prisoner to the Madison County jail where he received a court order from Judge E. C. Love of circuit court, ordering transfer to a fourth jail at Jacksonville.

First inkling that an additional mob had formed and preceded them was given him, Gregory said, when he was halted on the road ten miles from Madison. A gang of white masked men swarmed about his car

While held at the point of a gun by a man, Gregory said he and his three deputies were informed that "we want that Negro and we're going to have him." Gregory said the Negro had been transferred to another car and whisked away in the space of two minutes. He said that he did not recognize any of the mob

MOB IN FLORIDA

LYNCHES A NEGRO

(Special to The New York Age)

Quincy, Fla.—Will Larkins, Negro, indicted Saturday, November 9, by a Special Grand Jury on a charge of assaulting a 12-year old white girl, was lynched the same night shortly after 9 o'clock. A mob of between 35 and 40 masked men did the lynching.

Larkins was forcibly taken from Sheriff Gregoire at the point of shotguns ten miles east of Madison while the sheriff was taking him to the Duval County Jail at Jacksonville, under orders of Governor Doyle Carlton.

Larkin's body, bullet riddled, was dragged through the streets, tied to the rear of an automobile and later burned.

County and State officials began an investigation immediately.

Lynchings - 1929

Kentucky.

2843

Cases of
TRIO OF NEGROES
KILLED BY POSSE
FOLLOWING MURDER

SIX ARE ARRESTED
IN MOB SLAYING

Greenup, Ky., July 19.-(P)- Trying to escape across the river in a boat without oars after fatal shooting, two negroes were shot to death by a posse of railroad men today and a third was believed to have drowned.

One of the three had killed Jack Silvey, 27, Chesapeake and Ohio railroad foreman. None of the negroes was identified. Silvey was shot after he had started the trip from a mess car where the cook said he had been forced to give them food.

About 40 railroad men, armed with shotguns and pistols gave chase and as shortly before the death of Fugate, the negroes tried to paddle the boat whose bottom showed 10 bullet holes. With their hands, fired several volleys, Lee Watkins, of Hazard, the sixth man named by Fugate, sent word that he would surrender. The warrants charged malicious shooting and wounding and after Fugate's death G. C. Allen, commonwealth's attorney, prepared to issue murder warrants.

POSSE KILLS TWO NEGROES.

They Had Slain Railroad Foreman
In Kentucky.

GREENUP, Ky., July 19.-(P)- Two negroes were shot and killed today by a posse after they had slain John O. Silvey, 30, a railroad construction foreman of Huntington, W. Va., at Limeville, near here.

Silvey had ordered three negroes from property of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad. Later they hid behind a signal tower and shot him. As the negroes were preparing to hurl his body into a ditch a few miles from town the posse fired and killed two of the fugitives. The third escaped.

MOB INDICTMENTS
IN FUGATE KILLING
ASKED BY GOVERNOR

JACKSON, Ky., Dec. 27.-(P)- Governor Sampson today telegraphed County Judge Bach urging indictments of all members of the mob that lynched Chester Fugate Christmas Day and asking whether the facts were known or whether, from whose custody the man was taken.

Judge Bach wired the governor that the county officers were acting vigilantly, that the "good citizens want speedy action and Breathitt county vindicated," and that "this will be done." He said the jailer's term expires January 6.

Warrants charging murder were issued today for six men named by Fugate as having taken him out of the jail where he was held for slaying Clay Watkins. Five of them already are on \$5,000 bond each on warrants issued before Fugate died.

lynchers Fail
To Kill Victim

AVENGING BULLETS
RIDDLE PRISONER

Farmer May Live After
Attack By Mob

JACKSON, Ky., Dec. 25.-(P)- Chester Fugate, a tenant farmer held for the slaying of his landlord, was taken from the Breathitt County Jail this morning, shot half a dozen times, and thrown over a cliff where five hours later his

prayers and groans attracted help.

Fugate was brought to a hospital here and when it was learned that he was not expected to live, his signed statement was taken. He was said to have stated that he recognized several of the mob, but county officials declined to give any intimation of their names pending arrest.

The mob that revenged the death of

Chester Fugate, who was taken from the Breathitt county jail Christmas

morning and shot and beaten, died late

after he had accused six men

of being the leaders in the latest

shelling of the county jail.

Five of the men, kinsmen of Clay

Watkins, who Fugate had to death

December 18, came in and surrendered

and were held in \$5,000 bond each

"I couldn't make any outcry," Combs

said. "They had guns on me and had my

hands and legs tied. Then they took the

keys and went and got Fugate. That's all

I know. There were five in my room.

There must have been 75 to 100 in the

crowd."

The men did not harm the 25 other

prisoners in the jail but sought out Fu-

gates cell, hustled him out into the

snow-filled ditch before he was snow and drove away. The jailer's son

found, made his statement to the com-

monwealth's attorney in the presence heard the noise and gave the alarm.

Then at its completion deputy sheriff fired a few shots as the

crowd drove off and then the search was

begun, Sheriff S. J. Cockrell being

aroused.

It was five hours later when Jim But-

ler, a farmer going out to pick fod-

der, heard a man praying and groan-

ing. He summoned help and Fugate was brought

A KENTUCKY LYNCHING

JACKSON, Ky., Dec. 25.-(P)- The Associated Press's account of the Chester Fugate, a tenant farmer held Breathitt County, Kentucky, lynching, in which a tenant farmer who killed his landlord was taken out of jail, shot, beaten his morning, shot half a dozen times and thrown over a cliff, where five hours later his prayers and groans attracted help.

The mob that revenged the death of

Chester Fugate, who was taken from the Breathitt county jail Christmas

morning and shot and beaten, died late

after he had accused six men

of being the leaders in the latest

shelling of the county jail.

Five of the men, kinsmen of Clay

Watkins, who Fugate had to death

December 18, came in and surrendered

and were held in \$5,000 bond each

"I couldn't make any outcry," Combs

said. "They had guns on me and had my

hands and legs tied. Then they took the

keys and went and got Fugate. That's all

I know. There were five in my room.

There must have been 75 to 100 in the

crowd."

The men did not harm the 25 other

prisoners in the jail but sought out Fu-

gates cell, hustled him out into the

snow-filled ditch before he was snow and drove away. The jailer's son

found, made his statement to the com-

monwealth's attorney in the presence heard the noise and gave the alarm.

Then at its completion deputy sheriff fired a few shots as the crowd drove off and then the search was

begun, Sheriff S. J. Cockrell being

aroused.

It was five hours later when Jim But-

ler, a farmer going out to pick fod-

der, heard a man praying and groan-

ing. He summoned help and Fugate was brought

to the Macon Telegraph, "has the flavor

of most of our Southern lynchings."

"Five men," says the story, "about 2

a.m. slipped into the bedroom of Soli-

Combs, the jailer, in his home adjoining

the jail. Combs said that before he was

fully awake his arms and feet had been

bound. He woke up to a warning to keep

quiet if he valued his life."

As to this The Telegraph says:

It is strange how these officers of the law

have a way of being overpowered. In this

case, five men "slipped" into the room of a

jailer and overpowered him. How, one

might inquire if one were not a Southerner

and did not know the inside of being

overpowered, how was it the jailer was so

easily available for overpowering? The

answer is simple: back of nine-tenths of

the lynchings in this country there is a

cruel public officer.

And all too often an indifferent public

opinion—but not so often now as formerly.

Public opinion everywhere is becoming less

and less indifferent with regard to mob

murder.

TROY, N. Y.
TIMES

DEC 26 1929

AGAIN A CASE OF LYNNING.

Lynching has decreased much since the steadily growing number of cases caused public indignation and protest throughout the country and aroused the sense of duty in the authorities of jails and communities in the South. Just now another case is reported, from Jackson, Ky. The victim is a white man. He was in jail for the killing of the owner of the farm he hired. There was a quarrel over pay for service which the tenant claimed to have performed.

On Christmas morning a mob surrounded the jail and five of its members went into the home of the jailer adjoining the jail, found him just awakening, bound him, took his keys, opened their way into the jail and took out the prisoner they sought. They shot him six times, then threw him over a cliff. In the meantime the sheriff had been informed of the lynching, but when he arrived on the scene the mob had dispersed. Five hours later the victim was found, still alive, but facing death from wounds and exposure.

This man committed a crime for which in due course of legal process he would have suffered the prescribed penalty. The members of the mob are as guilty as he, but presumably they will escape punishment. To fix guilt in such a case is difficult. Blame rests also upon the sheriff who failed to hold the jail safe from invasion by a mob. It was left unguarded while the jailer slept when members of the mob had unresisted access to him.

This is a matter for the Governor of Kentucky to take up. Such an act brings discredit upon the state in which it is committed. There cannot be security under law where a mob can make itself superior to it.

Lynchings - 1929

Cases of

MISSISSIPPI Mob Shoots

Negro Worker To Death

(Special to The New York Age.) "contract" with Jenkins to work a

Macon, Miss.—Steve Jackson, 65 crop for this year. Jenkins ran away colored, was shot to death by a mob from the life of slavery. Long worked near her father yesterday night, immediately hours, poor food and living constantly after he had stabbed and killed editions, and his inability to get out Fred McCrayber, 35, a plantation of debt made the aged farmer despaired owner on whose ground he work-of life. McCrayber, heavily armed.

followed Jenkins to Shuqlak to take

According to the story told by him back to bondage. The two men met on the north edge police, McCrayber and Jenkins had disagreed over terms of a share to halt, the aged man stopped a fence crop contract and Jenkins had left and ran for his life. The white the plantation. The owner went planter followed and in the quarrel after him and a fight started when fight ensued. Jenkins in defense of

his life pulled a knife and stabbed McCrayber repeatedly. Three of the blows struck the heart. Jenkins was

times, three of the blows striking immediately captured by a hastily the heart. Before police officer formed mob and shot to death. His body was placed on public exhibition

could reach the scene, a mob quickly collected, over-powered Jenkins

the town square.

and shot him to death.

NEGELO IS LYNCHED Lynching in
FOR KILLING WHITE Miss. Goes
PLANTATION OWNER Un-noticed

Macon, Miss., May 12.—(AP)—Steve Jenkins, 65, negro, was shot to death by a mob near here last night immediately after he had stabbed and killed Fred McCrayber, 35, a planter. Officers said McCrayber and Jenkins had disagreed over the terms of a share-crop contract.

The story told McCrayber's neighbors was that Jenkins became dissatisfied with his condition and left McCrayber's plantation. McCrayber went after him, and a fight began when the two met near here last night.

McCrayber was stabbed repeatedly with a long bladed "switch-knife," three blows striking the heart. A mob formed quickly, and captured and killed Jenkins before officers arrived.

The planter is survived by a widow and two children.

Mob Lynches
Peon After He
Kills 'Owner', LYNCHING GOES
UNNOTICED

Macon, Miss., May 17.—Steve Jenkins, 65-year-old share-crop farmer, was shot dead and his body riddled with bullets by a mob Saturday at Shuqlak after he had stabbed Fred McCrayber, 35, a white planter, to death rather than return to a life of

Mississippi when the town marshall opened the jail, while the group was mobbing her father. An altercation at the tomato packing shed is said to have led to the mob action later the same day after Taylor had been released from jail. 7/20/29

2844

Beatty Taylor, escaped the mob

North Carolina

2845

Lynchings. - 1929

Cases of.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Republican
Thursday, July 18, 1929

~~operator~~
county, on May 28,
rendered to the sheriff and
been liberated under a \$2,500 bond.
Hall was arrested following the
shooting and was out on bond and
when he learned that Sellers had
died surrendered.

Investigating Mecklenburg Lynching.

Numerous witnesses, both white
and black have been called before
the Mecklenburg grand jury in an
effort to determine the men who
lynched Will McDaniel, negro, in
that county, near Matthews, on
June 30. The negro was found dead
on the farm of Mell Grier, with
marks of a rope around his neck
but so far no tangible evidence has
developed as to who was responsible
for his murder.

Lynchings. - 1929

Cases of

REPORTER FINDS TREE WHERE FARM WORKER WAS LYNCHED

Charlotte, N. C., July 12.—Indisputable evidence that Willie McDaniel, 28-year-old farm hand, whose body was found back of his home eight miles from this city Sunday morning, came to his death by lynching was revealed Wednesday by the investigation of a white newspaper reporter, who discovered the tree where McDaniel was hung. The youth and his wife were friend and adviser is indefensible," he declared.

Every effort will be made to obtain enactment of his resolution, he stated, so that the military forces of the United States will be withdrawn.

The full text of his resolution is as follows: "Whereas a treaty forced upon Haiti by the military forces of the United States was entered into between the United States and Haiti and was signed at Port au Prince on Sept. 16, 1915, and ratifications were exchanged at Washington on May 3, 1916, and on the same day said treaty was proclaimed; and

Marines Not Needed

"Whereas by its terms said treaty was to remain in full force for 10 years from the day of the exchange of ratifications and also for another term of 10 years if for specific reasons presented by either of the high contracting parties and purposes of the treaty has not been fully accomplished"; and

"Whereas without any specific or other sufficient reason an attempt was made on the 28th day of March, 1927, to extend said treaty for a further period of 10 years and Arthur Bailey-Blanchard and Louis Borno made an agreement which each signed and which attempted to fix the life of said treaty at 20 years; and

"Whereas said agreement signed by said Bailey-Blanchard and said Borno was not presented to the senate of the United States or ratified by it, or by the Haitian government or any part thereof authorized to ratify treaties; and

"Whereas said treaty, ratifications of which were exchanged on the said May 3, 1916, has expired, but it is claimed by the executive department of the United States that it is still in force; and

"Whereas said treaty is no longer responsive in various respects to the political principles of the United States, or to the principles of justice and international comity which should govern the relations of the United States and Haiti and other countries; and

"Whereas said treaty is not responsive to the political principles and commercial needs of Haiti and the Haitian people:

"Therefore be it resolved by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in

North Carolina

gro had hanged himself and until this afternoon his death attracted little attention.

Unsatisfied with the report of the worker's death, a newspaper man this afternoon visited the farm and discovered a path broken through the bushes and underbrush from a place about 150 yards back of the Grier barn to a giant white oak tree.

Climbing a tree, he discovered on a limb of the oak cuts caused possibly by a sliding rope. From the tree to a spot back of the Negro's home, the path where the body was dragged across a wide cotton field could be seen plainly.

**FIGHTING
LYNCH LAW**

NEW YORK, July 18.—With the lynching of two Negro workers within the past week, the International Labor Defense has increased its efforts to build a huge mass organization to carry on the legal defense of the 15 members of the National Textile Workers Union, who go on trial for murder July 29 at Gastonia, N. C., for organizing Negro and white workers in the same union, to fight for better living and working conditions and higher wages.

The I. L. D. has received word of the brutal killing of Joe Boxley, an 18-year-old Negro worker of Alama, Tenn., who was lynched by a mob urged on and led by reactionary business interests. This was followed soon afterward by the lynching of William McDaniel, a young Negro worker of North Carolina.

The International Labor Defense is defending the strikers and strike leaders of Gastonia, who were arrested following the raid on their colony by Chief of Police Aderholt of Gastonia and his henchmen, who fired into the tents where the strikers were living. Joseph Harrison, a union organizer, was seri-

ously injured and in the struggle Chief of Police Aderholt was fatally wounded.

The National Textile Workers' Union especially aroused the ire of the bosses when they brought Negroes and whites into one union under conditions of equality. Chief of Police Aderholt used the pretense that he was descending on the colony because of a fight between a Negro and a white in the tent colony. It was afterward proven that no such fight occurred and it was an excuse used by the police to raid the workers.

The trial begins July 29 and police raided the Workers' International Relief tent colony on June 7. To launch a broad fight against the land are responding to the call to aid the Gastonia framed-up this new terror will be one of the main tasks of "Gastonia Night" to be held in Harlem on July 19. Preparatory plans for the event will be formulated at a meeting of the Inter-racial I. L. D. branch at the Harlem Labor Center, 235 West 129th street, tonight.

**NEIRO ARRESTED
ON LYNCH CHARGE**

Charlotte "Inquirers" Seek to Frame Him

CHARLOTTE, N. C., July 11.—Acting for the Mecklenburg grand jury in its "investigation" of the savage lynching of the Negro farm hand, Willie McDaniel, by a white landlord mob, Solicitor Carpenter today arrested another Negro worker who can easily be framed into the chair on manipulated "evidence."

A New Frame-up.

"He was arrested on a charge that does not concern this particular case," Carpenter admitted, "but we believe he knows something about it."

Meanwhile, fear of the same savage lynching in which McDaniel was killed is forcing Negro tenants to leave the district, it was admitted at the last coroner's inquest on the slaughtered Negro's body. Melvin Grier, McDaniel's employer, is particularly hit by the latest exodus. For the new "investigation" Negro workers here have nothing but contempt. Its sole purpose they claim is to divert popular resentment and to fasten responsibility for it on another innocent Negro.

Part of Lynching Wave.

That the Charlotte lynching is only part of a wave of lynch terror now driving even greater numbers of Negro workers away from the south is the conviction of the Har-

2846

2846

**NEGRO IS FOUND
SLAIN; POLICE
SHIELD KILLERS**

New York
Body Discovered Lying
in Woods Near Charlotte

Brutally Murdered

White Landlord is Not Quizzed by Police

CHARLOTTE, N. C., July 4.—"He was hung. His neck was broken. We don't know who did it or how it happened."

Such is the light offered by Vic P. Fesperman, chief of rural police, on the wanton murder of Willie McDaniel, 23-year-old Negro.

Body Found in Woods.

The body of McDaniel was found last Sunday morning in the woods near McDaniel's cabin home on the farm of Mell Grier, a white man, near here. Wounds on the Negro's wrist indicated that he had been tied, and bruises under the skin of the neck and broken neck bones showed that he had been hung. After being hung, the body had ap-

parently been cut down and dragged to the spot where it was found lying face downward. The Negro had evidently been violently treated.

An inquest will be conducted at the court house tomorrow morning by Coroner Frank Hovis. Despite the assurance of rural police chief Fesperman that "we are working on the case," nothing has been done thus far. Jake F. Newell, Charlotte attorney, who has been employed by the dead Negro's friends, has been unable to get any action. Though it is known to the police that where McDowell was last seen alive, or Saturday, he was quarreling with his white landlord, Grier, the latter has not been arrested or even questioned by the police. It is thought likely that the police may have incriminating evidence in their possession which they are hiding.

Negroes Aroused.

The Negroes in this section are greatly aroused over the brutal murder and are demanding action in the apprehension of the murderer. From the stalling tactics of the police, it seems likely that they will let the case drag until the resentment of the Negroes has blown over and the murder becomes merely another of the "unexplained mysteries."

Lynchers' Cry Of Negro Did It Was Dangerous

Raleigh, N. C.—The danger in the story, "A Negro Did It," which leads often to lynchings and justice too swift for calm judgment, was graphically illustrated in the release here last week by police of "Buster" Carter, 18.

His release wound up a case which, on first investigation, seemed to involve Carter in a capital offense and several white men in a lynching.

Before the released boy's arrest early last Monday morning, police were holding one man and investigating the youth's disappearance on the theory that he had been lynched because of alleged immoral relations with a 13-year-old white girl. Clyde Hester, the white man held, was discharged by police after they apprehended Carter.

Captain of Detectives R. M. Saunders made a full investigation of the case and ascertained that the girl was sleeping at the home of a friend at the time the incident was claimed to have happened. First hand information was to the effect that Carter had never been seen with the girl, as first reports said.

Carter regularly slept in a truck parked on Tucker St. He was reportedly seized by three or four men early Sunday morning, July 14, and carried away. Police then made efforts to locate him, with no results until the following morning. Mildred Moss informed police that she heard Hester say he carried the youth away. A tip determination on their part that all the facts, so

same that Carter was back at an old far as humanly possible, will be brought out and that justice will be done, even if the victim was "only a negro." And pending future disclosures, the relief of the people of the county that there was at least no lynching will be manifest.

And trite as it may seem, the moral hangs thereby.

NEGRO LYNCHED, NORTH CAROLINA POLICE BELIEVE

Charlotte, N. C., July 3—(AP)—Convinced that Willie McDaniel, 23-year-old negro youth whose body was found in a thicket near here Sunday was lynched, rural police today sought some clue as to the identity of his assailants.

The youth's body was found face-down, and first guess was that he had died of heart failure. An examination by the county physician disclosed, however, that the neck had been broken and that there were skin abrasions on the neck and wrist. The opinion was expressed by police that McDaniel had been tied and hanged and his body taken to the thicket and

LYNCHED MAN BURIED NUDE

RALEIGH, N. C.—The naked body of William McDaniel, lynched here last May by a mob of landlords was dug up on a Charlotte farm following a protest against this manner of burial, last week.

McDaniel, who was a farm hand had been hurriedly buried nude in pauper's grave.

Lynchings Arouse Labor

Body to Fight Outrages

New York, July 16.—With the lynching of two workers in the South committed in Mecklenburg and it is likewise within the past two weeks the International Labor Defense has increased its efforts to build a huge mass organization to carry on the legal defense of the 15 members of the National Textile Workers Union, who go on trial for murder July 29 at Gaston, N. C., for organizing members of both races within the same union.

The labor organization has received word of the brutal lynching of Joe Boxley, an 18-year-old worker, at Alama, Tenn., and of William McDaniel in North Carolina.

OBSEVER CHARLOTTE, N. C.

JUL 9 1929 NO LYNCHING.

It now appears pretty well established by the evidence that Willie McDaniel, the Newell negro recently found dead in a patch of woods, was not "lynched," but was murdered. That he was put to death by one or more parties,

probably by not more than three men, is an accepted fact and one which clears Mecklenburg County of any possible charge of having developed a lynching incident. It is also to be noted that the people of Mecklenburg have been seriously aroused by the gravity of the crime that has been committed and that there is a

and that justice will be done, even if the victim was "only a negro." And pending future disclosures, the relief of the people of the county that there was at least no lynching will be manifest.

OBSEVER CHARLOTTE, N. C.

JUL 13 1929

NOT A CASE OF LYNCHING.

Judge R. R. Clark, contributing editor to The Greensboro News, makes judicial declaration on the matter of a case of "lynching" and one of plain murder, in which, while maintaining that the distinction is without a difference, at least to the victim, he is fair enough to vindicate The Observer's determination to clear the name of the county in the particular case of the killing of the Newell negro. He understands The Observer's attempt to put aside the name of "lynching" for the crime under discussion. He is appreciative of the fact that this paper would properly avoid the impression gaining currency that any considerable number of people of the city and county engaged in the killing, were privy to it or in sympathy with it, and the word lynching would so indicate. The killing seems to have been a private affair, "and the crime thus ranks as murder, instead of lynching." That is the point The Observer had in mind and is the ground upon which it bases contention that Mecklenburg can not be convicted of a "lynching" in this case. It is to be noted, also, that the course of the grand jury investigation under way is developing testimony to support this contention. It is clear to readers

of the court proceedings that a murder has been committed in Mecklenburg and it is likewise clear that the officials of the law are determined to exhaust every means of bringing the guilty

OBSEVER CHARLOTTE, N. C.

JUL 18 1929

WITH PROTECTION ADDED.

The grand jury is now suggesting offer of reward in money for production of evidence in the case of the murder of the negro McDaniel, at the same time averring that he intends to stay on the job until the mystery is solved or go out of office leaving the matter for another grand jury. Meantime, it might appear that if "protection" is coupled with reward for reluctant witnesses to come forward, the grand jury might secure results, for it is evident that some witnesses who might tell something worth while are holding back by reason of fear for personal safety.

ENTERPRISE

High Point, N.C.

JUL 9 1929

HOW BIG MUST PARTY BE TO BE A LYNCHING?

What is a lynching?

The Charlotte Observer contends that the evidence has established the fact that Willie McDaniel, negro who was found with his neck broken, was not lynched but murdered.

Says The Observer:

"It now appears pretty well established by the evidence that Willie McDaniel, the Newell negro recently found dead in a patch of woods, was not 'lynched,' but was murdered. That he was put to death by one or more parties, probably by not more than three men, is an accepted fact and one which clears Mecklenburg County of any possible charge of having developed a lynching incident. It is also to be noted that the people of Mecklenburg have been seriously aroused by the gravity of the crime that has been committed and that there is a determination on their part that all the facts, so far as humanly possible, will be brought out and that justice will be done, even if the victim was 'only a negro.' And pending future disclosures, the relief of the people

of the county that there was at least no lynching will be manifest."

If three men seized the negro and hanged him, is that murder or lynching? Lynching is the act of "private persons inflicting punishment upon an individual without due process of law." Particularly does it refer to the inflicting of death.

The Mecklenburg negro quarreled with his white landlord and his body was found early next morning. The evidence of which The Observer speaks, being to the effect that the negro's neck was broken and that his wrists bore the marks of binding, seems to indicate that more than one man participated in the execution.

Of course it is better to have three men loose in a community who are capable of that hideous crime than to have a hundred. Doubtless that is the differentiation The Observer has in mind. The negro probably was not the victim of a great community arousal to murder. But how big does a murder mob have to be before its activity constitutes a lynching?"

Lynchings-1929

Cases 6

ENTERPRISE

High Point, N.C.

North Carolina.

2847

NEWS

Hendersonville,

JUL 15 1929

J. L.

NEWSPAPERS' OPINIONS

0

SAYS McDANIEL LYNCHED BY MILL BOSSES

The Daily Worker, the Communist organ which is backing the National Textile Workers Union, the Workers International Relief and other organizations behind the Communists and Socialists in

APPARENTLY the county of Mecklenburg has a lynching to blacken the state's record. A negro quarreled with his white landlord, a farmer, over pay for troubles in Gastonia.

JUL 7 1929
MECKLENBURG SEEMS TO HAVE LYNCHING CASE

work the negro had done. The next morning the body of the negro was found hind the lynching of McDaniel, for the p with marks upon it which prevented the creating racial antagonism among the strik theory of accidental or natural death from thus break their solidarity."

being acceptable. The neck was broken and the negroe's wrists appeared to have been bound at some time shortly before his death. The coroner's jury found that the man came to his death at the hands of a person or persons unknown.

It is no wonder that there is strife and dissension among the ranks of the Communists and that The Daily Worker is about to be forced to suspend publication!

When such lies as this are printed and given circulation, there is no telling to what lengths such a newspaper will go.

There the case rests so far. Perhaps the county will not be content with the casual investigation that has been made but will go thoroughly and fully into the matter. A crime has been committed, a particularly atrocious one and all of North Carolina ought to be interested in what Mecklenburg will do about it.

"The mill bosses were back of the lynching of a farm hand in Mecklenburg county," says The Daily Worker. The scene of the alleged lynching is 25 miles from Gastonia. It is in an agricultural section of Mecklenburg county. None of the former strikers have ever heard of the community, we guess. None of the Communist organizers have ever heard of it before, nor have they ever visited it. The negroes were good old-fashioned southern farm hands, and knew nothing, or cared less for striking textile workers.

On the face of it, this case is an unnatural one for this state, given though it is to violence. North Carolina ordinarily when outbreaks have occurred, has had a much better excuse for mob violence than a disagreement between a negro and a white boss. That kind of reaction is somewhat more typical of far southern outbreaks. If it is a case of lynching, and it has all the earmarks, it is an unusually offensive one.

The above shows how far The Daily Worker will go in efforts to distort facts and to spread innuendo and suspicion. Its readers, many of them, ignorant and uninformed, will take this story and swallow it. There will be many wild tales told in the slums of New York, Chicago, Passaic, Baltimore and elsewhere where this sheet is read, of the lynching by an unknown mob of a negro farm hand who joined the National Textile Workers Union.—Gastonia Gazette

The state has been somewhat boastful of its self-restraint of late years. The prompt and vigorous action of officers of the law, coupled with a growing public sentiment against mob violence, has been healthily repressive of the spirit that would override the machinery of justice. The case in reference is a startling break of a period of orderly law-enforcement. The most rigorous handling of it is due.

Lynchings - 1929

Cases of
~~RUSSIAN LYNCHING~~

~~Seven Are Sentenced for
Slaying Railway Conductor.~~

Podolsk, U. S. S. R., June 30.—(AP)
Seven workmen in a local factory were sentenced today to terms of imprisonment ranging from two to seven years for lynching a railway conductor because he had killed a workman who was trying to escape after arrest by railway authorities.

The trial attracted wide attention in the communist press which made a vigorous campaign against lynching.

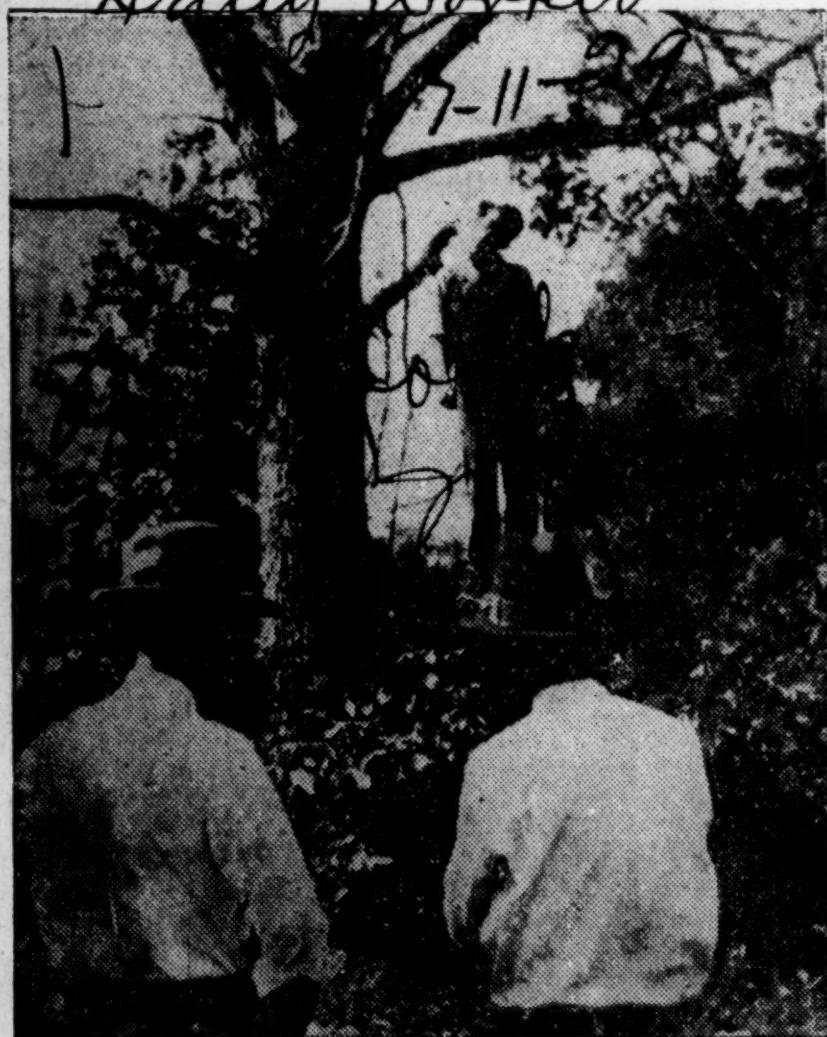
Russia

2850

2850

Lynchings - 1929.

Cases of
Southern Bosses Led in This Lynching



Tennessee.

2848

This remarkably photograph was taken while Joe Boxley, 18-year-old Negro worker of Alamo, Tenn., was being lynched by a mob urged on and led by the blackly reactionary business interests of the section. These same bosses sent militia and thugs against the rayon mill strikers in Elizabethton, Tenn.

The bosses deliberately work up a lynching frenzy in order to divide the workers in the South, whose rising militancy has caused the bosses to tremble.

A similar example of this was the lynching several days ago of William McDaniel, a young Negro worker, not far from the scene of the great North Carolina textile workers' struggle. The mill bosses were behind the lynching of McDaniel for the same sinister purpose as the Tennessee mill bosses had in the lynching of Boley, to attempt to create racial antagonism among the strikers and thus break their solidarity.

Lynchings - 1929.

Cases of

MOB LYNCHES YOUTH AFTER BREAKING JAIL

~~Herald & Commercial News~~
Alamo, Tenn.—A mob of about one hundred men early today entered the Crockett County Jail here, removed Joe Boxley, 19 year old youth, accused of attacking the wife of a justice of the peace, and hanged him on a tree four miles from town.

The key to the jail was hidden under the divan in the living room at the home of Sheriff Emmerson. The mob beat upon the front door, Mrs. Emmerson said, and finally the Sheriff opened it to prevent its being battered down. They searched the house, located the key and reached

~~Boxley~~
**NEGRO IS LYNCHED
NEAR ALAMO, TENN.**

Alamo, Tenn., May 29.—(P)—After storming two jails to avenge an attack on a white woman, a mob succeeded early today in getting possession of Joe Boxley, 19-year-old negro, who was found a few hours later hanging from a tree limb four miles east of Alamo.

Despite an injunction written on a placard placed beside the body that the negro was to "hang here until 4 p. m., Thursday," the body was removed today by the county coroner and turned over to Boxley's relatives for burial.

The woman, who was attacked and choked into unconsciousness at her home near Alamo, was reported this afternoon still in a serious condition.

Boxley was arrested late yesterday at Trenton in an adjoining county, was spirited to the jail here late last night when a mob of about 2,000 men stormed the Trenton jail and demanded the negro. Not finding him when they forced entrance to the Trenton prison, members of the mob moved to Alamo, forced Carl Emison, Crockett county sheriff, to open the door of his home and after finding the keys to the jail under a divan where the sheriff had hidden them in an effort to outwit the mob, unlocked the jail, took possession of Boxley and led him away with a rope about his neck. His body was found later hanging to a tree.

NEW YORK HERALD to Elizabethton, Quiet

MAY 30 1929

Tennessee Negro Lynched After Mob Storms Jail

19-Year-Old Prisoner Accused of Attacking White Woman

ALAMO, Tenn., May 29 (P).—A mob of about 100 men entered the Crockett County jail here early today, removed Joe Boxley, nineteen-year-old Negro accused of attacking the wife of a justice of the peace, and hanged him on a tree four miles from town. The Negro was taken from the jail about 4 o'clock and his body was found soon afterward.

Boxley, arrested in Gibson County and placed in jail at Trenton, was spirited away from there soon after midnight after a crowd of 2,000 men had surrounded the jail and the leaders demanded the Negro. The front door of Sheriff C. A. Bradshaw was battered down, but he and two other officers managed to smuggle Boxley out of his cell and bring him to Alamo, near where the woman was attacked.

Sheriff Carl Emison, of Crockett County, said two men first approached him and demanded the Negro, but he refused to give him up. In a few minutes, Emison declared, about 100 men appeared. They then searched the house, Emison said, found the keys, unlocked the jail, took the Negro, iff Carl Emmerson, who turned over placed a rope about his neck and de-parted.

Mrs. John James, wife of a magistrate of Crockett County, was attacked in her home and choked into unconsciousness. She was found in the yard. It was reported that when she partially regained consciousness she muttered the name "Joe."

LYNCH NEGRO FARM LABORER IN TENNESSEE

Daily Worker
Sheriff Gives Jail Key
to Mob; Dragged from
Cell and Is Hung

5-30-29
Magistrate Is Involved
Newspaper
Gov. Who Sent Troops

Tennessee.

2849

fore, the only thing that can be expected is the shielding of the men. It was reported also that when Mrs. James had partly regained consciousness she muttered the name "Joe."

Boxley remained composed until the end. His body was found later hanging from a tree four miles from the town.

NEW YORK TIMES

MAY 30 1929

NEGRO, 19, LYNCHED BY TENNESSEE MOB

Youth Accused of Attacking
Woman Is Taken From Jail
at Alamo and Hanged.

SHERIFF'S HOME STORMED

Officer Says He Tried to Placate
Men Before They Entered His
House and Found Key to Lock-Up.

ALAMO, Tenn., May 29 (P).—Joe Boxley, negro, 19 years old, accused of attacking a white woman, was abducted from jail here early today by a mob. He was lynched four miles east of town.

The lynchers had stormed a jail at Trenton, Tenn., in an adjoining county, before they traced the negro to Alamo, and almost battered down the door to the home of Carl Emison, Crockett County sheriff. They discovered the keys to the jail under a divan where the sheriff had placed them, and got possession of the negro.

Despite an injunction written on a placard and placed beside the body that the negro was to "hang here until 4 P. M., Thursday," the body was removed from a tree by the county coroner and turned over to Boxley's relatives.

Woman's Condition Serious.

Mrs. John James, wife of a magistrate, who was attacked and choked into unconsciousness at her home near Alamo, this afternoon was reported to be still in a serious condition.

Boxley was arrested late yesterday at Trenton and spirited to the jail here late last night. The Trenton sheriff said he had learned that the negro youth had been working on a

field near the James house around the time when the attack occurred. It was reported also that when Mrs. James had partly regained consciousness she muttered the name "Joe."

In describing the abduction by the mob, Sheriff Emison said that two men first approached him and demanded the negro but he refused to give him up. They told him, the sheriff said, in reply to his statement there were not enough to take the prisoner, that they had 500 supporters. In a few minutes, Emison declared, about 100 men appeared.

Says He Sought to Allay Mob.

"I tried to outtalk them," said Emison, "and to hold them off until I could get the jail keys hidden."

The keys were placed under a divan in his home, but the mob beat on the front door until it was opened to prevent its being beaten down. Then they searched the house, Emison said, found the keys, unlocked the jail, took the negro, placed a rope about his neck and departed.

Boxley, police said, made no statement and did not appear frightened when seized by the mob.

Mob Of Tennesseans

Lynch Negro Attacker

Advertiser
ALAMO, TENN., May 29.—(P)—Joe Boxley, 18-year-old negro accused of attacking a white woman, was abducted from jail here early today by a mob. He was lynched four miles east of town.

The lynchers had stormed a jail at Trenton, Tenn., in an adjoining county, before they traced the negro to Alamo, and almost battered down the door to the home of Carl Emison, Crockett County sheriff. They discovered the keys to the jail under a divan where the sheriff had placed them, and got possession of the negro.

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INNOCENT BOY DIES AT HANDS OF TENN. MOB

Dazed Woman Calls Name NEGRO, 19, LYNCHED
And Mob's Fury Is BY TENNESSEE MOB
Spent on Him

Special To St. Louis Argus

ALAMO, Tenn., May 31.—A flemzy bit of circumstances sent a 18-year-old youth to death at the hands of a mob of 1000 men, women and children near here early Wed. morning. Because Mrs. Johnnie James, 40, wife of Crockett County magistrate, called the name of "Joe" when found in her back yard in a semi-conscious state from a severe beating Tuesday morning, the ill-fated youth who happened to name Joe Boxley, the fury of race hate was spent on him.

Taken At Home

The boy was arrested at the home of his stepmother. News of the attack spread like wildfire and an angry crowd that grew into a frenzied mass by night stormed the Trenton jail where he was supposed to be, but found he had been removed to Alamo. They sped on to the little town in dozens of machines and forced Sheriff Emison to surrender the keys to the jail at his home.

The lynchers unlocked the jail doors and placed a rope around Boxley's neck and lead him off heedless of his pleas of innocence. He was beaten with sticks and fists and kicked by the mob and then hanged from the limb of a tree. A sign was pinned on his body on which were the words:

"Let this d—Nigger hang here until 4 p. m. Thursday."

No Arrest Made

A coroner's jury returned a verdict of "death at the hands of unknown parties" after a short inquest Wednesday afternoon. The body was left at a colored church. The county provided a coffin and relatives said they would remove the body for burial.

James had partly regained consciousness she muttered the name "Joe."

In describing the abduction by the mob, Sheriff Emison said that two men first approached him and demanded the negro but he refused to give him up. They told him, the sheriff said, in reply to his statement there were not enough to take the prisoner, that they had 500 supporters. In a few minutes, Emison declared, about 100 men appeared.

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Boxley, police said, made no statement and did not appear frightened when seized by the mob.

TENNESSEE STAGES "LYNCING PARTY"

Pennsauken, N.J.
Hang Alleged Attacker to Tree, Following Crash-ing Of Jail

however, was not carried out, as the coroner turned the body over to undertakers immediately after he had rendered the verdict, "Killed by unknown parties."

Boxley was accused of attacking Mrs. Johnnie James, wife of a Crockett county magistrate. He was captured late Wednesday afternoon and lynched four miles from the town.

A mob of 2,000 men had stormed a jail at Trenton, Tenn., in an ad-Wednesday night, and led Joe Boxley, a 19-year-old youth, accused of joining county, before it traced the negro to Alamo. There the men al-attacking a white woman, to a tree most battered down the door of the nearby and lynched him.

Boxley had been saved from the home of Carl Emison, Crockett County sheriff. They discovered the keys to the jail under a divan where the sheriff had placed them, and got possession of the negro.

Despite an injunction written on a placard and placed beside the body of the negro, he was to "hang here angry men and prevented them from

until 4 P. M., Thursday," the body taking the prisoner.

Boxley was removed from a tree by the county coroner and turned over to

Boxley's relatives. A few hours later the lad was transferred to Alamo and the mob followed. When they reached Alamo

they went to the home of Sheriff

Mrs. John James, wife of a magis-Carl Emison and demanded the keys

trate, who was attacked and choked to the jail. Emison refused to give

into unconsciousness at her home them up, declaring that he did not

near Alamo, this afternoon was re-have them. The keys were located

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Lynchings-1929

Cases of.

Colored Boy Mobbed, Dragged Over Streets; Wrote Note To White

Indiscriminate

Calvert, Texas.—The lynchless record of Texas was marred here Sunday night, when a mob, composed of the leading white Christian citizens of Robertson County—comprising leaders from Hearne, Franklin, Hammond, Bremond, Calvert and kindred points—treated Cleave Williams, 19-year-old Negro youth, to a dose of the celebrated American concoction. *9-1-29*

Accused of writing a compromising note to a white girl of this Central Texas burg, the mobbists laid in wait for the colored youth and when he appeared on the scene, he was riddled with bullets by the lynchocrats and his lifeless body dragged through the streets of the city and left in the colored district. A colored undertaker finally removed the corpse from the street and prepared it for burial. *Hearne, Texas*

Various and conflicting reports are afloat here as to the real motive for lynching this colored youth, but the Negro citizens seem to be rather noncommittal and reticent, while the whites seem to hold to the opinion that they have performed a signal service in ridding the community of such a character.

Although no criminal charge had been placed upon the county blotter against Williams for his alleged note writing, the lynching is a closed incident as far as the most prominent white citizens of this town and county are concerned. Thus the cause of mobocracy goes marching on and Texas has finally joined in the race for the 1929 pennant in Judge Lynch's League. Inc.

Texas.

Negro Boy Is Mobbed

And Dragged Over Streets
of Texas Town

Indiscriminate
CAUSES CONFLICTING

9-12-29
Accused Writing Note to
White Girl

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LYNCING WILL BE PROBED BY JURORS

Brother Of Slain Deputy Wil
Prosecute If Indictments
Are Found

EASTLAND, TEX., Nov. 20—(P)—De-nouncing the lynching by a mob last night of Marshall Ratliff, bank robber District Judge George L. Davenport today ordered a Grand Jury to convene in special session tomorrow to make a thorough investigation.

Bitterness against the lynching also captured and his keys taken. The was voiced by Joseph Jones, county attorney and brother of Deputy Sheriff grass rope, as nearly 1,000 people looked Tom Jones, who died today of bullet wounds inflicted Monday night by Ratliff.

Ratliff was hanged from a telephone pole cable after the jailer had been captured and his keys taken. On the first attempt to hang Ratliff in his attempt to break jail. The who was here pending a sanity hearing officer said he would prosecute vigor which had delayed temporarily hisously should indictment be returned, death in the electric chair, the rope indications that the investigation broke and the mob waited for about 15 would be left entirely in the hands of minutes while a new grass rope was obtained. The rope was put around his Dan Moody, who said the state would neck and a score or more men failed give any assistance that might be asked against it.

"Lynching is in violation of the law. Someone in the crowd yelled: "Maybe and it is unfortunate when people takehe wants to talk," the hangmen eased the law into their own hands," was their pressure and Ratliff was lowered the executive's comment.

Jones's widow today received a letter "Do you want to talk?" they asked from Mrs. Rilla Carter, mother of Ratliff, expressing sympathy and regret over the shooting of Jones. Mrs. Carter also sent a telegram from Corsicana requesting Ratliff's body be held until his arrival. The body was viewed today by looking into the faces about him. He scores of persons.

Died Praying.

Ratliff died with a prayer for merci want to talk. String him up and make and forgiveness on his lips. Dragged a good job of it this time." and carried out of the jail. He fell to the ground when the first rope broke from a hundred men and again the and was stunned. He lay there mur-hangmen bent their weight to the stout rope. This time he was left dangling

"God have mercy and forgive me."

While the mob awaited a new rope some one tied a sack about Ratliff's loins. He had been dragged from the prison naked. Before he was pulled up a second time, some one asked if he wanted to talk.

"Let me down and I'll talk," Ratliff begged. The rope was loosened and he said: "Forgive me, boys." Then the rope drew taut and he strangled, his neck unbroken.

The body swung for 15 minutes before Justice of the Peace Jim Steele ordered it removed to a morgue.

Old residents said Ratliff's lynching was the first in this county since 1894 when two men were hanged near Rising Star. One was a notorious horse thief while the second, it developed was an innocent youth.

Ratliff was in jail here pending sanity proceedings filed by his mother, who claimed he had become insane while awaiting execution for his part in a bank robbery at Cisco, near here, the day

before Christmas two years ago.

Ratliff, who participated in the hold-up dressed in Santa Claus regalia and two companions were captured after a gun fight in which two officers and one robber were killed.

2851

Bandit Lynched By Mob Of Men

EASTLAND, TEX., Nov. 19—(P)—Furious over his attempted jail break yesterday in which he dangerously wounded Deputy Sheriff Tom Jones, a mob of 200 men tonight lynched Marshal Ratliff, Santa Claus, leader of the Cisco bank robbery in 1927.

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Lynchings-1929

Discussions

Negro Press. (Northern).

2864

NO INDICATION OF TRUE CONDITIONS, *caused* SAYS S. D. M'GILL

"Lynching Has Been On the Decline In Florida,"
Says Well-Known Attorney; "Recent Case
Is Unfortunate Relapse"; Florida Getting
Better, He Says. *Pittsburgh Ca*

11/23/29 By FLOYD J. CALVIN

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Nov. 21.—Because of the recent lynching at Quincy, Fla., it might be thought by those outside the state that Florida Negroes are still under an unbearable yoke of prejudice and proscription, but the truth is, according to Attorney Samuel Decatur McGill, of Jacksonville, a national figure and one in position to speak for the people of his state, conditions for the Negro in the land to Attorney McGill, an effort is being made by the lily whites to eliminate the Negro. "Our big problem is to get the Negro voters to keep a united front," said Mr. McGill. "However," he continued, "we can put up a better fight." "There has been a decided decline in official recognition in the last two years in lynching in publican party. In Duval county, in this state, and we view this particular case as an unfortunate relapse located, the Negroes claim the regular Republican organization. We have over 6,000 registered voters.

"The spirit of fairness toward here." Speaking more pointedly on his profession, Mr. McGill said: "The judges are very fair, and I believe they endeavor to carry out the letter of the constitution, but the spirit also colored lawyers are appointed special masters in Chancery like white law-preme Court." Speaking of the newyers. "There are about nine colored lawyers in Jacksonville, and Jacksonville lawyer said: "Florida—they have their own organization and its prosperity is increasing, due to the wonderful climate we enjoy. L. Purcell is president of the association, and the Negroes will share in it. S. D. McGill, vice president, just as will the dent. and R. P. Crawford. white people. The City of Jacksonville. The organization was founded in 1909. There are about 15 colored lawyers in the entire state. In At on the increase just as well as that attorney McGill's own office are two young assistants, L. E. Thomas of white people." In politics in Florida, according

Detroit, who is from the Ann Arbor Law School, who is in charge of lawyers of that city, but had an opportunity to observe the courts in drawing up documents and briefs and W. O. Jackson, from Howard University, who recently took the bar examination and passed where over 40 whites failed. He is assigned to George, Judge William H. Harriett, Attorney S. A. T. Watkins himself, who has practiced in Jacksonville for 20 years, is from Boston University. He represents clients all over the state, and right now has cases on docket at DeLand, in the Seventh Judicial Circuit; Ocala, in the Fifth Judicial Circuit; Miami in the Eleventh; Bradenton, in the Twelfth; Tampa, in the Thirteenth; Fort Myers, in the Twelfth; Sanford in the Twenty-third, and St. Augustine, in the Twenty-fifth.

Attorney McGill's most famous case in the history of his career came to a close on the 4th of November, when Abe Washington, who was convicted of murder in the first degree in 1922 and sentenced to be hanged, was finally taken to the state prison at Rayford to serve a life term. A gallows was even constructed, on which Washington was to die, but the man was finally saved after a seven-year fight. The freak of fate that saved Washington was this: He was sentenced to be hanged, but before he was hanged the mode of capital punishment was changed to electrocution. Attorney McGill, who was appointed by the state to defend Washington, then moved that the state could not kill him because he was sentenced to be hanged and not electrocuted. Men about town, white and colored, would bet that Abe Washington would hang, but on November 4 the bets in favor of Washington's life were paid because he was sent to prison. One white man had to give another a suit of clothes and so on. The case went to the Supreme Court, but McGill won. The Supreme Court Justice in rendering a decision in favor of Washington, also paid a tribute to Attorney McGill, in which he said, on Page 474 of the Southern Reporter: "The accused was represented by competent counsel of his own race who had long been an active practitioner in the courts of the county and the state, and such counsel was of course familiar with the laws governing the rights of the accused, if not also acquainted with the general methods pursued in executing the laws relating to summoning and impaneling juries; the laws of the state not permitting discriminations against any race in selecting jurors."

Frequently Attorney McGill travels to visit and observe other court and lawyers. During the past summer he spent some time in Chicago

Doing Things In Florida



ATTY. S. D. MCGILL

A LYNCHING IN TEXAS

They had a lynching in Texas a few days ago. Not the usual Texas lynching, but a new style one. In this case the lynchee was a white man—just as white as the members of the mob that performed the deed. He was a bank robber, a murderer and possibly a lunatic. At any rate, he was awaiting a hearing when the mob broke into the jail at Eastland, and lynched him.

And all Texas is up in arms. The governor, the judges of Texas, the mayors of Texas towns and sheriffs of Texas counties have declared that this lynching was a blot upon the "fair name of Texas" and that the mob must be brought to trial.

We agree with them—the mob must be brought to trial. As American citizens we look with horror upon a mob because we know that the business of a mob is to trample upon the laws of our country. We feel no more regret when we know that the person lynched is a black man than we do when he is white. It is the mob that we deplore. Heretofore Texas has ignored mobs when the victim was not white. These same citizens and officials have either been ignorant or indifferent to the trend of mob spirit. Little did they know when they sat quietly by and permitted the mob to go unpunished when his victim was black that soon or later that same mob would be lynching one of them. We have tried for years to teach them that the mob spirit is detrimental to this or any other democracy, but they have condoned it until its fangs reached into their own homes and race and family. A white man has been lynched and all white Texas is up in arms, as rightly it should be, but if Texas had arisen in arms when her lynch victims were black the state would not have to be in its present hysterical condition. Numerous Texas lynchings—the most atrocious on record—have gone unavenged. In cases where the victims were not white the governor has only deplored the condition, but has not attempted to bring the criminals and murderers to justice. In this case he, in perfect accord with other Texas officials, declares that Texas will punish these lynchers of a white man. We hope so, for in doing this many a confirmed mobbist will be brought to justice. Again, "it's an ill wind that blows nobody good."

Lynchings - 1929

Discussions.

Negro Press, (Northern).

2866

THE TENNESSEE LYNCHING

Down in Tennessee, a few days ago, a mob of more than one thousand took part in a lynching during broad open daylight. Of course, the victim was a Negro and, judging from the past, nothing will be done about the matter so far as state officials are concerned. Thus another one thousand murderers are at large in the South, and are therefore licensed to go unmolested so far as the law is concerned, free and ready to take part in the next lynching bee which suggests itself to their savage instincts. As an encouragement to such mobs, the sheriff or other law enforcement officers have not arrested any of the leaders nor has prosecution begun against any of the participants.

It was just last week that the Inter-racial Commission of the southern states broadcasted the results of the meeting of the Southern Baptists representing nearly four million members who went on record as not only being opposed to lynching for any cause, but pledged themselves to work ceaselessly until this sort of barbaric practice has been banished from this country. With this outburst of mob violence following so close on the heels of this religious gathering and taking place in the same state in which the so-called Christian forces had so recently gathered we are wondering as to whether the white people of Tennessee pulled off this lynching bee to counteract the work of the religious workers.

In the meanwhile, it will be proper for President Hoover's law enforcement committee to take note of the first lynching reported in the United States, following its entrance upon its official duties.

SOUTHERNERS THREATEN WALTER WHITE WITH TAR AND FEATHERS

Denounce "Rope and Faggot" as "Dirty Lot of Lies"

NEW YORK.—Following the publication by Time, The Weekly News magazine of a lengthy and favorable review of Walter White's study of lynching, "Rope and Faggot: A Biography of Judge Lynch," a number of denunciatory letters to the editors have been received from Southern whites several of them being published in the July 24 issue of Time.

The mildest of these was a telegram cancelling a subscription to Time. One Robert E. Lee of Greenville, S.C., declares that "if anyone ever needed a coat of tar and feathers its the author of 'Judge Lynch'." Eldon O. Haldane of Atlanta, Ga., brazenly defends lynching, declaring that "the well-balanced Southerner hopes that lynching of Negroes will increase rather than decrease, that Cracker fiendishness and cruelty . . . will never diminish, that persecution, prosecution of and fury against the Negro will prevail until their numbers are eliminated or substantially reduced, and preferably exterminated." This writer goes on to urge Congressional legislation against the Negro and declares that "down here we don't care if all the Negroes are lynched, or even burned or slit open with knives."

In a reply to the threats made because of his expose of lynching Walter White pointed out in a letter to Time that such reactions as those of Messrs. Lee and Haldane proved one of the main contentions of "Rope and Faggot" as to the inherent lawlessness which lynching has engendered. Mr. White also requested those who are eager to give him a coat of tar and feathers that they wait until cooler weather, "tar being so sticky and messy."

A Friend's Reproach

Amsterdam News

FAITHFUL are the wounds of a friend. Congressman L. C. Dyer of Missouri, author of the Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill, is a friend of the Negro if anyone is. When such a man censures the Negro his censure is likely to be just. 6-5-29

SPEAKING at the Bethel Church Lyceum Sunday before last, Congressman Dyer scored the Negro people for their insufficient support of his anti-lynching measures. He said they act as if they do not care whether lynching is put down or not, that in New York they are too much for themselves, that the Negro ministers do not turn a hand to help, and that the attitude of the Negro in general seems to be one of indifference.

CONGRESSMAN DYER'S indignation is very human. Nothing is more exasperating than to go out of one's way to help a man, only to find that he will do nothing to help himself. Congressman Dyer was naturally disgusted when, after the Senate's failure to pass his bill, the enthusiasm of the colored people for it began to wane. As a white man, of course, he cannot understand this, he cannot realize how little encouragement the Negro has had to hope for justice, even elementary justice, in this country. The white man is made to feel that if he keeps on fighting he will receive his due; the Negro is given no such assurance.

THIS IS NO EXCUSE, however, for letting down. The Negro should fight all the harder and longer for the very reason that the odds are against him. The Dyer Bill failed largely because of the inertia of Senators from the North and the East. The Negro should get behind his Senators and Congressmen. In every campaign he should demand their pledge that if elected they will do their utmost to put an anti-lynching bill through Congress, to support it in committee and on the floor, to head off the Southern filibusters. He should keep after them with letters, telegrams, interviews, and hold them to their pledges.

LYNCHING can be stopped and it will be stopped. Men like Congressman Dyer should have the active and unremitting support of every Negro.

MISSISSIPPI SCORES

Steve Jenkins was 65 years old. All his life he had worked on a plantation near Macon Miss., and in all that time he had never been able to earn enough money to leave the plantation. He was a virtual prisoner. Last week he went to a white man who had managed to manipulate his shares each year so as to keep him bound in his lots, and asked for an accounting. He got that he had worked long enough and hard enough to be able to retire. However the white man quarreled, fought, and the white man was the loser. Now Steve Jenkins, that boy is just another Mississippi lynch victim. The mob got him and beat him to death as a lesson to other Steve Jenkins that they must not expect to pit their strength against white people and win.

And so Mississippi scores another point in the lynch column. While Senator Tom Heflin was in Washington fretting because the United States senate failed to pass his resolution condemning Massachusetts citizens for tossing a few pebbles at him to stop him from lambasting the Catholics, a mob of Heflin's race brothers were hurling stones at an old man in his sister state of Mississippi.

It occurs to us that if Mr. Heflin wants to see a rock throwing enterprise at its most violent, he can do so by stopping off in Mississippi when he next goes home from Washington. It also occurs to us that had Mr. Heflin taken Dixie's mob tendencies as the subject of his resolution he might have received more consideration from the senate than he did!

U. S. LAW BODY ASKED TO SMASH LYNCHING

President Hoover's Law Enforcement Commission, for which a Negro member was urged last week by Kelly Miller of Howard University has been asked by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to make a study of lynching, peonage, mob violence and segregation, it was announced Monday.

The brief to the association asks the commission to urge a Federal law against lynching and mob rule with the Dyer bill as a model. The requests also include the formation of a Federal agency of members of both races to recommend needed legislation and conduct interracial education.

Dixie Threatens to Tar and Feather Walter White

Denounce "Rope and Faggot" as "Dirty Lot of Lies."

NEW YORK—Following the publication by TIME: THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE of a lengthy and favorable review of Walter White's study of lynching, "Rope and Faggot: A Biography of Judge Lynch," a number of denunciatory letters to the editor have been received from Southern whites, several of them being published in the July 8th issue of TIME.

The midst of these was a telegram cancelling a subscription to TIME. One Robert E. Lee, white, of Greenville, S.C., declares that "if anyone ever needed a coat of tar and feathers it's the author of 'Judge Lynch'." Eldon O. Haldane, white, of Atlanta, Ga., brazenly defends lynching declaring that "the well-balanced Southerner hopes that lynching of Negroes will increase rather than decrease, that Cracker fiendishness and cruelty . . . will never diminish, that persecution, prosecution of and fury against the Negro will prevail until their numbers are eliminated or substantially reduced, and preferably exterminated." This writer goes on to urge Congressional legislation against the Negro and declares that "down here we don't care if all the Negroes are lynched, or even burned or slit open with knives."

In a reply of the threats made because of his expose of lynching, Walter White pointed out in a letter to TIME that such reactions as those of Messrs. Lee and Haldane proved one of the main contentions of "Rope and Faggot" as to the inherent lawlessness which lynching has engendered. Mr. White also requested those who are eager to give him a coat of tar and feathers that they wait until cooler weather, "tar being so sticky and messy."

NAACP INSISTS ANTI-LYNCHING LAW IS NEEDED

Afro-American
Memorandum to this Effect
Sent to Hoover Enforcement Committee.

PEONAGE CITED

Disfranchisement in the South, Disrespect for Law.

NEW YORK.—Insisting that a federal anti-lynching law is necessary

LYNCHINGS LEGALIZED?

THE PROGRAM of President Hoover's Crime Commission is at least interesting because of its apparent exclusion of lynching, the pastime of some American communities, from its published list of crimes to be investigated by this so-called crime investigation. Among the eleven angles of its announced phases of crime its sub-committees will investigate and study no mention is made of mob law or lynching, the most flagrant form of crime extant in America today. Anticipating this oversight, the N.A.A.C.P. specifically called the attention of that august body of citizens to its prevalence and advised it that they were prepared to furnish the National Crime Commission with data convincing and conclusive covering the entire period of years this pagan practice has been indulged in by American citizens. Its brief has evidently been overlooked or deliberately ignored.

We cannot, nor should we, pass final judgment upon the acts of the Commission until its final report is submitted to the chief executive and adopted, but we should like to re-prove too weak to prevent the lynching of Larkins last Saturday.

LYNCHING

Another Negro went to his last reward by way of mob violence down in the Southland, last week. *Reynolds*

William Larkins of Florida, is the unfortunate victim whose life was snuffed out because it was alleged he attacked a twelve year old girl. *11-23-24*

On the same day on which the crime is said to have been committed Larkins was arrested, tried and indicted with absolutely no chance offered him to prove himself innocent of the accusation leveled against him.

Of course Larkins was indicted by the usual special jury. It was "cut" and for the purpose. It was a typical southern special jury. Ignorant, conceited and prejudiced to the core. Its findings in the case was as natural as it was expected of such a group of southern men, debasing what should be the dignified confines of a jury room with their presence. *Indianapolis, Indiana*.

A recent dispatch to The Indianapolis Recorder states that three Florida jails

Says the dispatch:

"Larkins' body was hung with a wire rope and riddled with bullets.

"The man's bloody remains was then tied to the rear axle of an automobile and dragged through the Negro section of the town."

Forty white men are alleged to have participated in Larkin's barbarous murder. We are inclined to believe that the ruffians numbered several times that many.

The southern mob is an institution of contemptible cowards who embrace every opportunity to vent their spleens behind the false face afforded by the convenient mask and the protecting arm of southern justice.

It seems that lawlessness is openly aided and abetted, officially in the Southland and is still unleashed.

It is not at all enough to say that such a state of affairs in a supposedly civilized county is disgraceful.

Just how long real Americans will continue to close their eyes to the fact and allow this southern savagery to go on unchecked, we do not know. But we do know that the Southland with its traditional cowardice, its false pride, peculiar by hypocrisy and impudence has long become a totally unfit place for decent people to live.

Lynchings - 1929

Negro Press, (Northern).

2867

Discussions.

EDITORS REVIEW LYNCHING.

While a Brooklyn editor was indulging in the hopeful conclusion that a sense of enlightened self-interest was responsible for reducing the number of lynchings during the past year, a mob in Mississippi raised the number from nine to ten, with the accompaniments of a thousand spectators to witness the burning of an unconvicted human being. And the Governor of this sovereign state, when appealed to for an investigation of the crime, answered: "I have neither the time nor the money to investigate two thousand people."

It is interesting to observe the reactions produced by this crime and the indifferent attitude of the Governor in the metropolitan press. The Brooklyn Eagle pronounced it "Mississippi's Disgrace," and a illustration of our backward civilization in that state. It added:

The victim of medievalism was a Negro—of course. He may have been guilty of the murder and abduction charged. The world has no way of knowing guilty or innocent, he was entitled to a fair trial, and in his State, where white men make up the juries, if proven guilty he would have met a deserved fate under the process of law.

The State of Mississippi had furnished three of the lynching cases of 1928 out of a total of ten reported ten days before the year ended. It has now furnished a fourth, with cruelty more horrible than any of the others displayed. The disgrace is Mississippi's. The responsibility is Governor Bilbo's. The Governor owns that he called out troops to catch the alleged criminal. He owns that he did not call out troops to prevent a lynching. Nobody asked him to do so. "If such a request had been made by an authorized person I would have granted it."

Criticizing Governor Bilbo as "being out of step," the New York Herald Tribune said:

The Governors of other states in the South realize that it is a blot upon their states and upon their gubernatorial regimes when men are burned alive and no one is punished. Mississippi should be saved from itself as a member of the sisterhood of states. The above views of three different editors, showing how lynchings are regarded in civilized communities, go far to support such a conclusion.

when he refuses to act against this mob orgy; the chief effect of his contempt for law is likely to be to encourage those who doubt that the state will ever clean its own back yard and call for Federal action.

It remained for the New York Daily News to excoriate the community murderers of Mississippi in terms so plain as to penetrate even the intelligence of the mob and its sympathizers. It said:

The last day of 1928 also saw, down south in the lordly state of Mississippi, a ceremony which made one wonder whether Mississippians, who lately banned discussion of the evolution theory in their schools, weren't justified in doing so after all. Some of them showed themselves a good deal closer akin to the yellow dog than to the anthropoid ape.

A colored man, who had murdered a white man and abducted and attacked his daughter was captured by a mob of over 1,000 Mississippians and was then burned to death. Mississippi has criminal courts, penitentiaries and legally qualified hangmen. But the reasoning of the lynchers is that southern womanhood must be protected. Why the courts can't be trusted to avenge southern womanhood, we don't know; nor, we suspect, do the

lynchers.

Isn't the real reason possibly that Mississippi sadism must be satisfied every so often? It may be insulting to link up these Mississippi "gentlemen" with child killing perverts like Kudzinowski, but a psychologist could probably find points of resemblance.

Boys, it's a noble windup for 1928.

It makes you wonder just how far civilization has progressed in the United States, at any rate how thoroughly it has soaked through all sections of society.

In states like Mississippi where enlightened self-interest is too abstract a quality for popular appreciation, where the human conscience is seared to all moral emotions, the only recourse to keep such communities from committing wholesale murder, with the added barbarism of a

human holocaust, is for the Federal government to intervene. The State government has proved itself inadequate to the

task and has abdicated its functions of enforcing the law and protecting its citizens. Mississippi should be saved from

Governor Bilbo does an ill service to his state

HUMAN BONFIRE IN MISSISSIPPI

ROME, Miss., Dec. 31 (A.P.)—Charley Shepherd, Negro alleged murderer and abductor, was burned on a funeral pyre here tonight after mutilating his body and firing several shots into it, the mob of several hundred men placed the Negro on a pile of logs, threw gasoline over it and set it afire.

"Mississippi ends the year as she began it, by lynching a disfranchised citizen."

The above paragraph appearing on New Year's morning at the head of the article, which told of the burning of Shepherd, is indeed a comment on our boasted intelligence and Christianity. And remember this is the action of 2,500 people of the boasted "superior race."

Race relations was struck a solar plexus blow Monday night when 500 white Christians celebrated the passing of the old year with a human bonfire near Rome, Mississippi. And they expect Negroes to have confidence in their Christian spirit, and sincerity in a true desire for race relation.

That was an inspiring scene around which to gather and form new resolutions for the incoming year. It was a characteristic entertainment of the Christians of Mississippi. Would wild beasts do any more to a human?

This paragraph, they "mutilated his body," they fired "several shots into it," and not being satisfied with that, these friends and electors of Pat. Harrison and Bilbo, built a bonfire of logs, saturated with gasoline and placed this defenseless human being in it and lit it, then men danced around it in Christian glee and exultation by way of celebrating the passing of 1928.

When asked if he would make an investigation of this crime of times, Gov. Bilbo of the wonderful commonwealth of Mississippi, whose "states' rights" must not be questioned, said, "I have neither the time, inclination nor the money to investigate 2000 people." The fact remains that he could spend the tax-payers' money to call out 400 national guardsmen to hunt for a Negro, but he could not command those same men, already on duty, to protect the Negro after he was caught.

We are not condoning crime, nor are we upholding Shepherd, if he committed the crimes, he is reported to have committed. The state of Mississippi has good and sufficient machinery in her courts to try and convict every man committing a crime in her borders. And the Governor and other officials connected with this affair should have seen to it that the State's laws were enforced and the good name (?) of Mississippi upheld and the reputation of these United States be maintained as the greatest civilized and Christianized nation in the world.

But, we know of so many cases where Negroes have been lied upon, and of white men using burnt cork on their faces to appear as Negroes to commit crimes, for which innocent Negroes have suffered and are suffering now, that we question every report of a serious crime supposedly committed by a Negro.

Ben Bess of South Carolina spent 14 years in that State's penitentiary because of the lie of a white woman who confessed to lying. In Arkansas a supposedly Negro was caught shortly after attacking a white woman but when they put the rope around his neck to lynch him, it was found that he was a white man, with burnt cork on his face and he was turned loose. In St. Louis several crimes have been committed by blackened faced white men in the past three years.

And too, we are not told why Shepherd killed this Duvall. It is probable that his daughter was familiar with Shepherd and Duvall surprised them and attacked Shepherd, who killed him in self-defense and the girl raised the cry of attack to save her reputation. White women have Negro sweethearts all over the South; but when they are caught up with, the women always raise the cry of assault to clear their own skirts and sometimes it is a fabricated lie as in the case in South Carolina and Coffeyville, Kansas, three years ago. Therefore, we do not uphold crime but question every reported assault case because we know existing conditions.

DAILIES IN SOUTH HIT LYNCHING

Holiday Season Celebration in Mississippi Called Savagery

JACKSON, Miss.—(A. N. P.)—In the face of Governor Bilbo's steadfast refusal to investigate the lynching of Charley Sheppard at Parchman and the verdict of the coroner that he "came to his death at the hands of unknown parties and unknown causes," Southern dailies and ministers are scoring lynching and decrying the negligence in at least attempting to bring the guilty parties to trial.

Pointing out that the lynching was participated in by 1,000 men and women just 25 feet from the public road, the editor of the Richmond, Virginia Times-Dispatch, said:

"The Negro was burned on the stake by outraged citizens who were guilty of two of the blackest crimes in the calendar of crimes. There was no mistake about the man. He had been identified and had confessed to his wrong-doing. Death was his just desert, but not death at the hands of a mob. The courts of Mississippi have been set up to handle these cases. There is still a hand of the law which would have dealt swiftly and adequately with the guilty man. He could not have escaped the penalty made and provided for persons of his sort."

"As the matter stands today crime in Mississippi has been met with crime. The man was guilty of murder, and so are the thousand men who put him to death, for they acted without warrant from duly constituted authority. His killers have flouted the edicts of society just as he did. Instead of harboring one criminal on that fateful New Year's Eve, Mississippi harbored a thousand and one."

"The state should deal sternly with those who commit mob violence. It is a form of crime with which no community can afford to temporize. Mob violence defeats the aims of government, and government must fail if it is tolerated. In Virginia we have learned our lesson and have taken steps to protect the state from this kind of disgrace. Mississippi would do well to tear a leaf from the book of our experience."

The Arkansas Gazette, of Little Rock, in the same vein said:

"This Negro's crimes were so heinous that they were bound to inflame popular passion to an extraordinary degree. Many citizens law abiding enough under ordinary circumstances may have been swept off their feet. It must be admitted that what happened in Mississippi might have happened in Arkansas or Alabama or Georgia, or other states. But it remains true and indisputable that mutilating the living bodies of malefactors, no matter how terrible their crimes, and burning their bodies as a public spectacle are practices that belong to barbarism, if not to primitive savagery."

"Just before these Mississippi mob did their frightful work the annual report on lynching was published. I showed that 1928 had set a new low record for the 40-year period during which these statistics have been kept in the United States. The total to December 28 was nine, compared with 16 in 1927, and 30 in 1926. Mississippi had three mob killings, Louisiana and Texas following with two each, and Missouri, and New Mexico reporting one each."

Now, Mississippi, which already led the country in lynchings for the year, has further increased her deplorable distinction."

TOTAL FOR 1928 BROUGHT FROM 9 TO 11 LYNCHINGS

Hanging and Burning Resorted To By Angry Posse

JACKSON, Miss.—Two lynchings, one at Hattiesburg and one at Lombardy, were Mississippi's contributions to barbarism in the closing days of 1928.

The body of the Hattiesburg victim was found dangling from a tree Thursday morning five miles south of the city, clad in underclothes. The body was identified as that of Emanuel McCallum, a mechanic from a local garage.

Investigation later proved that a party of six or seven white men had called at the home of McCallum shortly before midnight, demanding admittance claiming they were officers of the law. When the door was opened the men swarmed in, snatched McCallum out of bed, and without giving him time to dress rushed him into a motor car. A coroner's jury of "America" and "The Star Spangled Ban-

ner" are signals for doffing of hats and swelling breasts. America and Mississippi—Mississippi and America!

The dead man was about forty years old and had a good reputation in this vicinity. According to Sheriff Gray, McCallum's life had been threatened on a former occasion and that he had advised him to leave the state on his refusal had him jailed on the basis of an alleged attack on W. D. Easterling, a white tailor, and transferred him to Purvis, for safe keeping, but released him after three or four days.

It is said that sometime ago McCallum, during an argument with Easterling, struck him with a monkey wrench, inflicting a slight scalp wound.

No arrests have been made in the case.

The second lynching took place Monday evening, New Years eve, at Lombardy, in the northern part of the state.

Charley Sheppard was the victim's name. He had escaped from the state prison farm after killing J. D. Duvall, an employee there, and kidnapping his 18 year old daughter whom he is alleged to have attacked and then sent back home.

The lynching occurred when a mob of infuriated farmers took Sheppard away from Miss Laura Mae Keeler who had gone to his hiding place, persuaded him to throw his rifle away, and start back to town with her for the purpose of giving himself up.

Sheppard is said to have confessed to the killing and the abduction, absolving two others from blame who were accused with him.

While a mob of 2,500 people looked on in fiendish glee, Sheppard's body was mutilated, bullet-piddled tied to a bunch of logs, soaked in gasoline, then set fire to. A rain that had been falling slowly prior to the inhuman orgy stopped suddenly just before the lynching occurred.

Gov. Bilbo, arriving in Jackson tonight, announced that no investigation of the lynching would be held at his instigation, saying that such an inquiry would "cost too much."

AMERICA

A cringing, crying culprit—a human being begging for protection from human beings—a black fiend menaced by 5,000 white fiends enough to kill single-handed—it is worse to rape. But it is a thousand times more bestial to apply a torch to a human being and gloat in the radiance of a burning soul while your neighbor also bares his countenance to the evil glow. Depravity of the murderer and rapist who elected them rests the charge that civ-America? Nothing. What will be done about the those that will take place in the future? Nothing—until we change our entire attitude toward them. Like a great cancer, eating at

Upon the heads of the federal government is no longer local. They, at least, feelin the orgy. We are sorry for a state and a blot—not upon the "fair" name of Mississippi. What will be done about this lynching? for guidance and for counsel. We are sorry

for the lynchers—men who will cut off another man's ears and watch his agonized face as fire eats his feet from his body—an endless chain. The same social conditions that develop murderers and rapists develops lynchers. Out of such an environment as this come white morons and black morons—and white beasts. Out of such a wallow of filth as this emerge men, women and children who can laugh at the horrible cries of a man dying in agony of fire.

And America is responsible. White people in the North and East and West cannot free themselves from blame by pointing a finger at Mississippi and crying "Shame!" Neither can black men and women of the East and West escape the odium. It is America's responsibility and America must eventually atone for the crimes committed in the name of white civilization by white beasts. Upon the shoulders of every white man in America rests the responsibility for this most diabolical of crimes. Pontius Pilate did not free himself from responsibility for the murder of Christ because he "washed his hands of the whole affair."

We pity white America more than we pity Sheppard and Sheppard's people. It is bad enough to kill single-handed—it is worse to rape. But it is a thousand times more bestial to apply a torch to a human being and gloat in the radiance of a burning soul while your neighbor also bares his countenance to the evil glow. Depravity of the murderer and rapist who elected them rests the charge that civ-America? nothing. What will be done about the those that will take place in the future? nothing—until we change our entire attitude toward them. Like a great cancer, eating at

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for the lynchers—men who will cut off another man's ears and watch his agonized face as fire eats his feet from his body—an endless chain. The same social conditions that develop murderers and rapists develops lynchers. Out of such an environment as this come white morons and black morons—and white beasts. Out of such a wallow of filth as this

Lynchings 1929

Negro Press, Northern.

2868

Discussions.

CELEBRATES NEW YEAR BY BURNING NEGRO

'Why do the heathens rage, and the people imagine vain things?' Hell broke loose down in Mississippi, Monday night as the inhabitants (white) of that state, celebrated the incoming year by making a funeral pyre of the body of a Negro who had been beaten, shot, mutilated, dragged at the end of a rope fastened to an automobile, and otherwise maltreated.

The picture further described is a scene, around which is some three thousand men, women and children, gathered at a large bonfire, made of logwood, upon which has been poured many gallons of gasoline. And, after the almost lifeless body which still showed signs of life, had been securely placed upon this huge mass of oil and wood, the lynchers' torch was set to it and quickly the flames shot heavenward, as the victim groaned in agony. Then, see these people, three thousand murderers, hopping around the scene in fiendish glee, like any other heathens. Many women with babes in their arms, while others were expecting to become mothers, and you will agree with the Psalmist who said: Why do the heathens rage, and the people imagine vain things?

Mississippi surpassed all other states during the year of "reported" lynching. Just how many Negroes were shot to death and just how many mysteriously disappeared, during the year, Mississippi claims five.

While the people of all the civilized world were celebrating the closing of the season commemorating the birth of the Christ who brought GOOD WILL to all men, and the ushering in of the New Year with bounties of GOOD WISHES for the future, the semi-savage people down in Mississippi, were raising hell.

It will be remembered that it was not the crime with which the victim was charged, that caused the lynching—burning; it was the color of the person accused. It was not the actions of a few infuriated citizens, incensed over the crime, but a well planned, deliberate mob, recruited for the purpose.

It will be further noticeable that of the eleven lynchings which took place in all the civilized world, "eleven" of them were in the United States, and that all of them were Negroes, except one, a Mexican who was thrown in to give a bit more color to the subject. Thus we see, that it is not the crime, but the color of the person charged with committing the crime. Scores and scores, hundreds and hundreds of white men in these several communities were charged with the same crime, during the year but none of them were lynched. Therefore, the words "Equal Protection of Law" as found in the Constitution of the several states, as well as the Constitution of the United States, stand out prominent and convict those who are supposed to enforce the laws of the land. It is they who are parties of these lynchings because they stood idly by and if not actually taking part, allowed others to do the lynching.

Another thing noticeable in this report is, that not one person was convicted or even arrested, in connection with these lynchings. Absolutely no protection was given the prisoners. Not a shot was fired except to help riddle the victim's body with bullets.

We were about to join those who will say that they hope there will be no lynching in the United States during the New Year, 1929 but no, we will make no such a wish, but rather hope to see a great awakening on the part of the forces of righteous-

ness to the extent that a severe rebuke will be given those faithless officers, whose duty it is to enforce law, from the President of the United States down to the smallest official.

1928's Lynching Record

Tuskegee Institute's figures of nine lynchings for the year 1928 are not quite correct. This is, no doubt, due to the fact that the figure was given out before the year ended. Mississippi must have been told of the number listed because she immediately got busy and lynched two more just as 1928 was sliding into the past.

We think that Mississippi is too chthonian. She held already the year's record for three lynchings. But that did not satisfy her. She wanted to stand supreme in the field of barbarism. Lest some hopping around the scene in fiendish glee, like any other heathens. Many women with babes in their arms, while others were lynching records greater than the one she held, Mississippi in a last minute spurt decided to set a record that would be untouched.

We can imagine her pointing with pride to her five lynchings and

saying, "Here, Alabama, Georgia and Texas, is what WE did to the black rascals in our state in 1928. Equal it if you can."

It seems further as if Bilbo, chief yokel of that great com-

wealth of boobs and yokels, is perfectly satisfied. He has announced that no investigation will be made of either the lynching at Hattiesburg or the atrocity at Lombardy.

If such be possible, the killing at Lombardy is the worse of the two. Emanuel McCallum, the Hattiesburg victim, was found dangling from a tree. Little is known of the actual killing. But Charley Shepperd was burned at the stake after being soaked with gasoline. Details are too plentiful.

Arthur Brisbane, famed Hearst newspaper columnist, had this to say in reference to the latter case: "If it be possible for a half developed human creature to deserve such a death, he deserved it."

This from a man who does more to shape people's opinions than any other newspaper writer in America!

According to our information, Shepperd was not exactly a law abiding citizen. He was a penitentiary inmate. Knowing, as we do, a little of southern "justice," he could have been doing time for an offense he never committed. At any rate, there he was, and he took the first opportunity to escape that presented itself. In making his getaway, he killed a man and took his daughter back. A mob formed, and the search was on.

We are taking his capture with a grain of salt. We are told that Miss Laura Mae Wheeler, a young white woman, captured Shepperd single-handed and unarmed. He was hiding in a cabin with a loaded rifle when the woman went to him and said the farmers would get him and kill him. She persuaded him to throw away his weapon and give himself up. We are further told that he started out unarmed with her to authorities and that he was met by a posse of lynch-bent Mississippi country gentlemen, taken from the woman, and burned.

That's the story of the capture. It is obviously a little asinine. But the new low total of eleven lynchings during the year fills us with hope. It is five less than the number, sixteen, made the previous year. In theory, at least, the year 1940 should find no recorded lynchings at all. There has been a steady yearly decrease since the passage in the house of representatives in 1923 of the Dyer Anti-lynching bill. If the measure can be made legal, our dreams of a lynchless year may materialize. We can hope, however, that the year 1929 will find even less than eleven lynchings marked down to its credit.

THE LYNCHING OF CHARLEY SHEPHERD

The lynching by burning of Charles Shepherd in Mississippi is so horrible and atrocious in its details that it is difficult to believe that it really happened in a civilized State.

That he was guilty of an atrocious crime and charged with another atrocious crime, either deserving of death does not relieve the Governor of Mississippi, the Commander of its National Guard and the country officials charged with the duty of maintaining law and order from the grave responsibility which falls upon them for one of the most brutal and barbarous crimes that has ever been perpetrated in America.

The Governor is reported to have led the mob which sought the Negro; a part of the National Guard constituted a part of the mob which made the search and when captured by a woman the National Guard retired leaving the victim in the hands of the mob, the commanding officer declaring that his duty was to run down the criminal and not shoot down citizens.

Governor Bilbo declared that he was not asked to send troops to protect the victim and that he had no intention of investigating two thousand people.

All the evidence point to the fact that the lynching, the burning of a human being, although a criminal, was the official act of the Governor of the State of Mississippi and the Sheriffs of the counties through which the mob army pursued the victim and in which it finally burned him to death.

The Governor led the mob during a part of the chase; the National Guard led by its Commander also headed the mob until the capture and then left the prisoner to the mercy of the mob.

The Governor knew that when the prisoner was caught that he would be lynched but refused to order a single precaution to prevent it.

After the burning when asked if he would investigate replied that "he had neither the time nor the money to investigate two thousand people."

Governor Bilbo's act preceding the lynching and since, and his expressions concerning an investigation proclaim his respect for law and order in the State in which he is the highest officer sworn to uphold, maintain and execute the laws. He has as the State's Chief Executive turned loose the mob in Mississippi and the responsibility for whose acts of deviltry and savagery from now on will be rightly laid at his door.

Innocent or guilty Negroes in Mississippi henceforward need not look nor hope for protection of the law. The mob has been unbridled by the Governor of the State and their only protection or hope will be their own physical

defense and they should prepare to meet the mob with the weapons of the mob.

BILBO

Governor Bilbo of Mississippi states that he has neither the time nor money to investigate the two thousand or more people who mutilated, tortured and burned the black man, Shepherd, on the last day of the year of Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-eight. This lynching took place in Rome, Mississippi, after Shepherd had committed two revolting crimes. It is alleged that he has falsified. Regardless to the brutality of his crimes in a civilized country he is guaranteed the right of trial by jury and no persons or persons are justified in taking the law in their hands. Their actions constitute murder in the first degree and the governor is violating his oath of office in not making an effort to uphold the laws of the land. He feels that the brutal and savage murder of this black man is of insufficient consequence for him to investigate. It is a sad state of affairs and the black people should take such a situation in hand even if it spells death.

The blacks and whites number almost the same in Mississippi and the lynch law has held the blacks away from the polls and from the benefits of their citizenship long enough. Such a life as they are living in Mississippi is hardly worth while and they should rise up in their manhood and investigate the savages who used the terrifying torture upon one of their own flesh and blood. Sooner or later they will be forced to fight anyway, and situations could arise that would awaken Governor Bilbo to the full sense of his duty. The darker race in India, Africa, China and America will eventually be forced to fight and Mississippi would be a good place to start the preliminary scrap.

A PLEA AGAINST LYNCING

MEMPHIS, TENN., Jan. 11—Hor-

rified by the lynching near Parchman, Mississippi, on the evening of December 31, the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, we must point to the fact that the in session in this city on the next day voiced a scathing denunciation of mob violence and appealed to all to fight against even the most heinous of the people to do their utmost to crimes. All experience of the past end this distinctive American crime. The resolution, which was introduced by Bishop H. M. Dubois, of Nashville, was adopted by unanimous vote and was given to the press to be broadcast as follows:

"Resolved by the College of Bish-

ops of the Methodist Episcopal Ch., justice.

South, that, speaking as the representatives of one of the most numerous bodies of the nation, and particularly of the South, we rejoice in the continued decrease in the number of lynchings in this country in recent years, but we deplore and condemn the still too frequent ex-

that the law be enthroned and our Christian ideals be vindicated."

More than 2,000 Southern Methodists, attending an international missionary conference in Memphis, at the same time, by unanimous vote adopted a similar statement and ordered that it be broadcast throughout the church, which has a membership of 2,500,000. This resolution was prepared by A. C. Millar of Little Rock, Ark., and was as follows:

"Not merely because lynching is wrong and unjustifiable, but also because of the reproach it brings upon us among other nations and races, we unqualifiedly condemn it and pledge ourselves to exert our influence to suppress it."

Admission \$10,000

Primitive Indian and African savages never celebrated a victory with more cruel tortures than those inflicted upon a half-wit criminal by a mob in Mississippi last week.

None in all of its barbaric coliseum assemblies never gloated over the blood of gladiatorial victims or wallowed in the reek of burning Christian martyrs any more than did 6,000 civilized Americans of Mississippi.

To them, mutilating the body of a criminal was more than a public spectacle and a circus. It was an evidence of elemental blood thirst and a vindication of racial savagery.

What is the answer?

Our reply is a federal anti-lynching law.

Mississippi led the union with five out of eleven U. S. lynchings in 1928.

Suppose the federal anti-lynching law were in effect.

Five counties of Mississippi would be compelled to pay the families of the mob victims \$10,000 each—a total of \$50,000.

Five sheriffs and their deputies would face five years in the penitentiary and a fine of \$5,000 each.

The United States grand juries in five counties would find out and indict ringleaders of five mobs with equal fines and jail sentences.

Do you think Mississippi would be willing to pay that price for its great public spectacles? We think not.

Tampa Star

Wichita

Baltimore

Memphis

Waco

Wichita Falls

Wichita

Wichita Falls

Lynchings - 1929
Discussions.

Southern Women Protest

Nationalrade

2-22-29

SOUTHERN LYNCHERS try to make the world believe that they practice mob violence for the protection of Southern white womanhood. If this were true, one would expect Southern white women to be clear, unprejudiced thinking, then lynching will stop without any other aid. Women's committees on race are among the first. Women's committees on race for any crime, against the claim that lynching is necessary for the protection of white womanhood, and against a double standard of morals which tends to amalgamation of the races and threaten racial integrity. *Curstender men*

That other force is the power of the law. When the government chooses to enforce the Constitution of the United States, and with the might of our government, then lynchings must cease, although the desire remains.

The ignorance of the lynchers is as much of a disgrace and against a double standard of morals which tends to take them from the bushes of eternal darkness, let them see the light of civilization, and advancement, and their souls will be as other men.

THE SOUTHERN WOMEN are no fools—women seldom are in sexual matters. They know that one of the main objects of lynching is so to subjugate and terrorize the Negro that the white man may debauch Negro women with impunity. They know that even if every Negro ever lynched had been guilty of assaulting white women, the total of such assaults would be far, far below the number of assaults by white men on Negro women. They have observed the brutalizing effect of such conduct upon the characters of white men; they have seen their men fall behind in business, government, art, science and general culture while the rest of the country and the world was marching forward.

THEY HAVE FELT the effect of sex brutality upon their homes, their own happiness and the happiness of their children. With their age-old intuition they see the storm-clouds of retribution slowly gathering in the distance, and they shiver as they remember the words of the prophet: "Woe unto the world because of offenses, for it must needs be that offenses come, but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh."

LYNCHINGS

America, who holds her head far above those foreign regions she calls heathen, permits that uncivilized custom called lynching, far below paganism, to become rampant in her land.

The day has come when not only Negroes, but whites denounce the practice.

There are only two forces that can prevent lynching. One is a mental force and the other is a physical one.

That mental force is one other than public opinion made possible through the cultivation of individual minds. It is impossible to pick apples from ~~monkey tree~~. And it is out of the question to expect anything but lynchings from Southern lynchers who have not cultivated their minds for intelligent and civilized thinking. *When the lynchers have learned to see life from the standpoint of those with broad minds and the last to protest against it. Instead of that they*

clear, unprejudiced thinking, then lynching will stop without any other aid.

That other force is the power of the law. When the government chooses to enforce the Constitution of the United States, and with the might of our government, then lynchings must cease, although the desire remains.

The ignorance of the lynchers is as much of a disgrace and against a double standard of morals which tends to take them from the bushes of eternal darkness, let them see the light of civilization, and advancement, and their souls will be as other men.

THAT FLORIDA LYNCHING

The lynching of a Negro boy down in Florida a few days ago followed so close on the heels of President Elect Hoover's departure from that state until, naturally, some speculations have come to our mind regarding the first reported lynching of the year in the? Well, we were about to say in the United States, but of course, that is understood as lynching is an American article and no other civilized or semi-civilized country uses it. It's strictly an American institution. But, anyway, we wonder was this all in the making before Mr. Hoover left the peninsular state and was held in abeyance out of respect for the next President of the United States, until he could get out of Florida?

We understand that a big celebration followed Hoover's departure which included ringing of bells, blowing of horns, huge decorations, and the strewing of flowers along his route, and it may be that the "quiet" hanging of a Negro as a part of the celebration was just miscarried, but followed in the wake. Now, therefore, we still speculate as to whether this was in honor or contempt to the President Elect. That is, whether the people of Florida staged this lynching to show that even though Florida went Republican in the election last fall, they do not want it understood that they have given up their popular pastime; or whether they thought that sort of celebration of his departure would please their late visitor, the President Elect Herbert Hoover.

"NEGRO ATTACK" STORY

NEW ORLEANS, La., Feb. 27 discrediting of a "Negro attack" —A reader of the article "I In-

vestigate Lynchings," in the January American Mercury Magazine 16, tells how a young married woman had told the police a "wild story" of an attack in a vacant downtown lot by a "big Negro." The New Orleans State of Feb. 27, 1929, reports the story of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, forwards from New Orleans Half the police force and a number of citizens were combining the a newspaper clipping reporting the recent lynching of two

neighborhood "with thoughts of lynching in their minds" when her father appeared, pooh-poohed the girl's story and said she had recently quarreled with her husband. *5-2-29*

The "Negro attack" flurry finally ended by the arrest of the woman's husband, charged by her with giving her a beating.

NEGRO ATTACK STORY BLOWS UP WHEN N. O. GIRL CONFESSES

NEW YORK, Feb. 21—A reader of the article "I Investigate Lynchings" in the January American Mercury Magazine, by Walter White, Assistant Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, forwards from New Orleans, a newspaper clipping reporting the discrediting of a "Negro attack" story.

The New Orleans States of Feb. 16, tells how a young married woman had told the police a "wild story" of an attack in a vacant downtown lot by a "big Negro." Half the police force and a number of citizens were combining the neighborhood "with thoughts of lynching in their minds" when her father appeared, pooh-poohed the girl's story and said she had recently quarreled with her husband.

The "Negro attack" flurry ended by the arrest of the woman's husband, charged by her with giving her a beating.

LENIN MEETING HITS LYNCHING

Workers of Cleveland Demand Full Equality

CLEVELAND, O., (By Mail).—The Lenin Memorial meeting which was held by the Workers (Communist) Party to observe the fifth anniversary of the death of Lenin and to criticize the workers of the city against the war danger, also took action on the recent lynching of two

Negro workers, Charlie Shepard and Emanuel McCollum in Mississippi.

This resolution against lynching and other forms of capital punishment reads in part as follows:

"The crime committed against the American working class in the lynching of these two Negro workers was brutal beyond description. Shepard was soaked in gasoline and burned at the stake while a mob of patriots, composed of 2,000 leading citizens of Mississippi, howled and cheered. McCollum was strangled to death because he protested against an overcharge by a white merchant. Capitalist exploitation and robbery go hand in hand with capitalist murder."

"In answer to the lynching terror of American capitalism, we pledge our support to the program of the Workers (Communist) Party for the struggle against the vicious system which breeds such murders.

"Meanwhile, we will fight against the whole system of race discrimination, and for full racial, political and social equality for the Negro race; against all forms of capitalist terror and discrimination against the Negro workers, and for the right of self-protection by the Negroes.

"We call upon workers, black and white, to unite for the struggle against the system which breeds such outrages.

"For the unity of all workers in the struggle against lynching, mob violence and terrorism!

"Down with capitalism, which feeds on the blood of the workers!"

LAKE CITY LYNCHING.

Lake City is a town of unsavory reputation in the northern part of Florida, twenty-five or thirty miles from the Georgia boundary. Its reputation has been derived from its summary lynching like the plague or any other epidemic. and torture of Negroes without any effective effort to punish or bring to justice the authors of such crimes or theious grasp. The danger should be met members of the mob committing them and repelled before it spreads further. This encouragement of mob murder and lawlessness has contributed to diminish respect for law in general and has made life cheap in Lake City.

Last week this degeneration of public security in Lake City was emphasized by another killing and a lynching, in which all the participants were white. According to the news dispatches, the sheriff, or some peace officer, had occasion to visit a grocery within the city limits and during an altercation with the grocer and

his wife, was shot, though not fatally. He shot in return and killed the woman, after which a mob seized the husband and lynched him. While details were given showing but trivial cause for the shooting, the killing of the woman and the lynching of her husband stand out as striking evidence that the mob lust for murder, as it grows, ignores any differences of race or color and takes its victims where it finds them, regardless of their color.

This latest lynching at Lake City should be a final argument in favor of Federal intervention to save the South from self-destruction in its blind tolerance and encouragement of lawlessness. The state governments have largely abdicated their functions of enforcing law and protecting their citizens from the mob. This withdrawal of protection to life and property, begun in the case of black citizens, has naturally spread to whites. The suppression of lynch law and mob violence is demanded as a protection to the interests of life and property in all those states where the state authority has failed to give such protection.

While this demand has been ignored, so long as the Negro was the only one affected by this disregard for life and property, it may become more urgent the now that the whole community is menaced by mob violence. Mob violence is If allowed to grow and spread, it will envelope the whole community in its noxious grasp. The danger should be met and repelled before it spreads further. Lake City is a signal and a warning.

A MIGHTY HOST OF BAPTISTS AGAINST LYNCHING

At a recent Baptist convention (white), which is said to represent a membership of more than 3,800,000, a report was read which, among other things, contained a statement concerning lynching in this country.

After the report was read, the question of lynching engaged unusual attention of the convention, many evil phases of this barbaric practice being freely discussed. As a part of its declaration against mob violence, a resolution has this to say:

St. Louis Argus

Lynching, as a habit, is a badge of shame to our civilization. Every effort should be made to build up public sentiment that will establish justice and banish from our borders the appalling practice of mob violence. Never should we be content until the every vestige of this barbarity be eradicated and every individual has secured to him the right of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The above statement, coming from this convention, arrests our attention. We are told in this connection that over 3,800,000 church members in the South have spoken on this question of lynching.

A mighty force of potential strength to be pitched against this national evil—just think of it! Nearly 4,000,000, old and young the middle-aged and the cradle roll, registered for a war (not a battle) against lynching. We were about to join the "hallelujahs." We are only restrained by an impulse which seems to make us doubt. We wonder what it is. Something seems to tell us, "It doesn't mean a thing. Just nice words coined into phrases." We would join the "doubting Thomases" as to the sincerity of the action, but for the fact that we want to lend our aid and encouragement to any move in the right direction which has developed to the state of issuing a public statement declaring its position. We, therefore, urge these people to gird their loins and face the issues like men and women who mean business, not as he who beateth the air, and ere long their work will have a telling effect upon mob violence in this country.

So FAR, SO GOOD 7/13/29

THE United States for the first six months of 1929 has reached a new low level in lynching. Only four human beings have been dispatched by mobs without benefit of legal process, and only three of them were Negroes. Florida led with two, and Mississippi and Tennessee followed with one each.

That sounds very good. There is reason to believe that the increased vigilance of police officials was largely responsible for the low figure, although it is also apparent that America is gradually outgrowing the pastime for which it is justly notorious. Lynchings have been averted both in Illinois and Tennessee in the past few days because law officers have been on the job.

To all those who insist that race relations are not improving in this country, we invite comparison between the lynching record for 1919, 1909 or 1899, and that for the first six months of this year. The records for the three years mentioned were, respectively, eighty-three, eighty-nine and one hundred seven. Of course it is entirely possible for a sufficient number of mob murders to take place in the next six months to bring the figure for this year above any of those mentioned, but it is highly improbable.

Incidentally, it appears that Russia does not intend to get any of the notoriety. Recently a mob in Podolsk, Russia, lynched nine leaders who had just been sentenced to prison terms ranging as high as seven years. When our government adopts such drastic measure there will be no lynchings at all in this country.

Lynchings - 1929

Discussions.

WHITE WOMEN ONLY LYNCHING

Bluest Blood of Dixie Condemns Mob Violence

COMPILATION OF STATEMENTS FROM SOUTHERN STATES UPHOLDS TENDECY FOR JUSTICE

"We urge that the integrity of the unknown and unauthorized forces. Negro home shall be held inviolate by We therefore declare our fidelity to the men of both races, says a group of the basic principles of American government. Kentucky white women, who are giving government, and to the flag which protects their expressions and presenting their lives, our homes, and the sacred disapproval on lynching and mob violence of our persons. In all fairness we lence. While from Arkansas comes this demand at the hands of public officials expression, "We demand at the hands the same protection for the lowliest and of public officials the same protection most helpless, not only of our own race for the lowliest and most helpless, not but of the Negro race to which we are only of our own race, but of the Negro bound by cords which cannot be broken race to which we are bound by cords."

which cannot be broken." Following We view with alarm the cheapness close behind this there lifts up a voice of human life. We call upon the courts from the Georgia white women, through for a speedy and sure administration their organization, which says, "We of the law, and for the execution of find in our hearts no extenuation for justice, in the handling of all races and crime, be it violation of womanhood colors, to the end that all citizens may mob violence, or the illegal taking of respect and uphold the majesty of the human life."

We are presenting through the cour- We recognize that the degradation of testy of the Tennessee Commission on woman is the doom of any race and Interracial Cooperation, J. D. Burton, that among the number of underlying Secretary, excerpts from the pronounce causes of the present racial situation ment of Women's Committees on Race in America is the lack of respect and Relations, containing other and more protection for Negro womanhood. ar-reaching expressions.

ALABAMA Recognizing with sympathetic appre- ciation the high standards of virtue set It is inconceivable to us that mobby the best element of Negro women violence is possible within our govern- we pledge ourselves to an effort to em- nent and that groups of irresponsiblphasize the single standard of morals individuals can usurp the power of both men and women, that racial properly constituted authority.

Therefore, we protest:

1. Against all mob violence by any race for any crime.

2. Against the claim that lynching the soul, we pledge ourselves to a calm and unimpassioned study of this whole question, and to active participation incivilization is discredited;

3. Against a double standard of all worthy efforts to make our country a better place in which the weak and most unprotected may live in security and peace.

We pledge ourselves uncompromis- ously to a single standard of morals

for all, and to this end we call upon the manhood of our own race to join with us in a crusade for the protection of the womanhood of both races.

We pledge ourselves to endeavor to create a public sentiment which will establish justice and righteousness in our state for every human being of whatever race or nationality.

ARKANSAS

Unless the Constitution of the United States is sacredly upheld by the duly constituted authorities, the personal and collective security of America will be swept away and she will live in terror and dread of violence at the hands of

Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 29, 1929

mob-violence, or the illegal taking of

human life.

We are convinced that if there is any one crime more dangerous than another, it is "that crime which strikes at the

root of and undermines constituted authority, breaks all laws and restraints alterably opposed to mob murder. The

of civilization, substitutes mob-violence, barbaric practice of lynching arouses

and masked irresponsibility for estab-

lished justice," and deprives society of

the sense of protection against barbar-

majesty of the law, brings Mississippi

ism.

Therefore, we believe that "no falser and brutalizes all those who come with- appeal can be made to Southern man-

hood than that mob-violence is neces- sary for the protection of womanhood," circumstances can ever justify mob ac-

or that the brutal practice of lynching and that in no instance is it an

burning of human beings is an ex-exhibition of chivalric consideration for

ression of chivalry. We believe that the honor of womanhood.

These methods are no protection to We commend our governor for call-

anything or anybody, but that theying out troops to suppress mob activi-

eopardize every right and every secur-ties, urge all sheriffs to meet attempts

ity that we possess.

Negro Press, (Southern).

GEORGIA

We have a deep sense of apprecia- tion for the chivalry of men who would

give their lives for the purity and safe-

ty of the women of their own race, yet we feel constrained to declare our con-

victions concerning the methods some-

times employed in this supposed protec-

tion.

We find in our hearts no extenuation for crime, be it violation of womanhood,

mob-violence, or the illegal taking of

human life.

We are convinced that if there is any chivalric consideration for the honor

one crime more dangerous than another,

er, it is "that crime which strikes at the

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ity that we possess.

KENTUCKY

While fully sensible of the fine chiv-prosecute vigorously the lynchers in

ally displayed by the white man in his Mississippi who have unlawfully

protection of the white woman, we plead slaughtered six men within the past

for the protection of the purity of all two months.

womanhood and we urge that the in-

tegrity of the Negro home shall be held

inviolate by the men of both races.

We believe that all citizens, without regard to race or class, should be pro-

tected in their lives and property by the constituted authorities who are known

and responsible for their deeds.

We hold that no circumstances can

justify the disregard of civil law and

human rights involved in lynchings and

other forms of mob violence.

We deplore the fact that such deeds

the face of undisputed evils paralyzes

Believing that silence and inaction in

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As women, as the mothers of men, we protest. We condemn every violation of law in the taking of life, no matter what the crime.

We declare ourselves for law and order at all costs. The public has a right to prompt and sustained justice and should demand such of officials and courts. We believe that America should not permit ignorance and prejudice to be capitalized.

VIRGINIA

We declare ourselves for a single standard of morals, for the protection of all womanhood, and for equal punishment for all offenders against the same.

We stand uncompromisingly against lawlessness in all forms, for the administration of justice through the regular official channels and not by self-constituted bodies for which there is no place in our midst. We pledge ourselves to uphold the hands of our officials in the maintenance of law.

WOMAN'S GENERAL COMMITTEE, COMMISSION ON INTER-

RACIAL CO-OPERATION

WHEREAS, Lynching, at one time practiced only as punishment by the mob for the violation of womanhood, is now resorted to even for robbery, petty crime, or no crime; and

WHEREAS, At present the responsibility for the punishment of lynchers and the abolition of the evil rests solely in the several state governments; and

WHEREAS, We, the Woman's Committee on the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, are overwhelmed with a deep sense of humiliation that this hideous crime is heralded abroad as the only means available to men for the protection of womanhood; and

WHEREAS, We likewise suffer because of the seeming impotence of our state governments in the protection of human life and in their inability to find and punish lynchers and members of mobs, who, in the absence of sufficient law enforcement by the regularly constituted authorities, presume to assume the role of judge and jury—thus themselves becoming the greatest of law violators; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, (1) That we deplore the failure of state governments to handle this, the most conspicuous enemy to justice and righteousness, and the most flagrant violation of the Constitution of our great nation;

(2) That we definitely set ourselves to the task of creating such sentiment as is possible to us in each State of our territory to the end that not only sufficient laws shall be enacted to enable the trusted officers of the law to discharge their full duty, but to secure the enforcement of the laws now in existence;

(3) That this resolution be presented to all our co-operating organizations and State Committees in an effort to put into effect such plans as are necessary to secure a sustained effort on the part of our women to the accomplishment of these ends.

MOB VIOLENCE.

The people in other countries who read of the many lynchings in the "Land of the free and the home of the brave," while the government seems to have no power to stop it, are apt to wonder what kind of country is this! The United States boasts of its wealth, its "noble experiment," its universities, its public schools, its churches, its moral leadership and yet it is far behind even Mexico in its power to protect its citizens from the cruel clutches of that hydra-headed monster called the mob.

We tax our citizens to send missionaries to foreign lands to spread the gospel of "Peace on Earth, good will to man," and at the same time, we are hanging, burning and torturing our own. We are looked upon as a nation of liars and hypocrites.

We have not a friend on Earth. Not a nation in the old world—not even one in the new, would trust the United States. We are regarded with suspicion and distrust wherever we carry our flag—the only national emblem that will not protect its protectors, nor defend its defenders. For more than half a century, the taking of human life has been the favorite pastime in our Southern States. Our judges, prosecutors, sheriffs and jailors have treated it lightly and where they were not actual parties to the crimes they have condoned it and winked at it and pretended that it was impossible to apprehend and bring these murderers to answer at the bar of public justice.

Innocent men have been burned alive in broad daylight, slowly roasted in fire, yet none of the miscreants who did the outrage have ever been recognized by the officers of the law. It is put down in "holy writ" that whatsoever ye sow, that also shall you reap." A few years ago some Italian subjects were accused of killing the chief of police of the city of New Orleans. They were taken from jail either by the cowardice or connivance of their custodians and unceremoniously lynched.

The Italian Ambassador protested against the outrage and threatened war. The United States Secretary of State was compelled to disavow the act, to make an abject apology to Italy and pay a large indemnity. This great country by tolerating the mob spirit came close to a foreign war because it was too lethargic or too cowardly to put down with iron hand the dragon of mob violence. The South cherishes mob violence as them bad, some imbecile and some strong, marching from utmost eternity one of its sacred institutions—just as divine as slavery. Every could tell the story that would give the results of any probe on lynching the bill that has been introduced into the National legislature to arm the government against the mob, has been opposed by the unanimous vote of the solid south. So long as Negroes have been the victims it was considered of no importance. The state where lynchings have occurred have always made a grand

flourish in the shape of an "investigation" whose results were always "nothing found."

On the 20th inst., way down in Eastland, Texas, a bank robber—a white man, dressed as Santa Claus, was taken from the custody of the jailor and hanged. He died with a prayer for mercy and forgiveness on his lips. He was clutched like a wild beast, dragged from the jail with a rope around his neck. The rope broke and he was stunned. He lay down before his murderers praying, "God have mercy and forgive me," while messengers were hastily sent to bring a new and stronger rope. He was strung up again and he begged to be let down to speak a word. He was dragged from the prison absolutely naked and some one tied a gunny sack about his hips. The poor fellow, said, "Forgive me, boys," and the rope was again tightened about him and his neck was broken. Such was the barbaric scene in a Texas town in the midst of the civilization of the twentieth century, under the banner of the stars and stripes. God pity us all. The constitution which our orators on Independence day lauds as the citadel of our liberty, says that no man shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law. Lawlessness has been rampant for years in the South. Ninety per cent of its victims have been Negroes. But criminals care not who may be their victims. One day it's a poor helpless Negro in Florida, the next day a poor white man in Texas.

Unless Uncle Sam takes the situation in his hands and grasps these marauders with his steel fingers, the time will soon come when everybody will be trying to lynch everybody else.

NO PROBE LYNCHING

An article carried in the Editorial columns of the Birmingham Post last week fairly bristled with the kind of truth that we have been trying to tell in our columns and eagerly seeking in the columns of other newspapers.

It is about a lynching probe. Of all the things in America that ought to be probed we think it is lynching. Every thing else has been probed from Bishop Cannon's purchasing of stock from an alleged Wall Street bucket shop up to the general trend of crime and its causes.

Lynching is the oldest American crime, the acknowledgedly most diabolical, the most universal, the most unnecessary, the most cowardly and yet most condoned.

That all seems very strange yet it is true by acknowledgment of the American press and the reason for its truth is lost in a maze of excuses dating back to the reconstruction period when the Negro had admittedly made good as a slave. The crime of lynching is a relic of that barbarous period when, in any case concerning a Negro, white men were a law unto themselves.

10-4-30

America has feared to face the shame that a probe would bring out and dodged any suggestion that would bring the truth about lynching into the light of public view.

Birmingham, Ala.
The group of Southerners put on the job are capable of getting as close to the truth as any group that might be selected. But no one can get at the truth of the lynchings and, perhaps, only as much of the truth as would arouse a sentiment against it might be useful. The facts are too shameful, too cowardly, too indefensible, too barbarous, to be known in full and detail and only a phalanx of black men and women some of them good, some of them bad, some imbecile and some strong, marching from utmost eternity semblance of truth.

Lynchings 1929

Negro Press, (Southern)

2853

Discussions.

Southern White Women On Lynching And Mob Violence.

We view with alarm the cheapness of human life.

Alabama
It is inconceivable to us that violence is possible within our government and that groups of responsible individuals can usurp power of properly constituted authority, mob the courts for a speedy and sure administration of the law, and for the execution of justice, in the handling of all races and colors, to the end that all citizens may respect and uphold the majesty of the law.

Star of 7-29
Therefore, we protest:

1. Against all mob violence by any race for any crime.

2. Against the ~~death~~ that lynching and that among the number of underlying causes of the present racial situation in America is the lack of white womanhood.

3. Against a double standard of respect and protection for Negro morals, which tends toward amalgamation of the races and threatens racial integrity.

We pledge ourselves uncompromisingly to a single standard of Negro women, we pledge ourselves to an effort to emphasize the single standard of morals for both men and women, that racial integrity may be assured, not to one race but to both.

We pledge ourselves to endeavor to create a public sentiment which will establish justice and righteousness in our state for every human being of whatever race or nationality.

Arkansas

Unless the Constitution of the United States is sacredly upheld by the duly constituted authorities, the personal and collective security of America will be swept away and she will live in terror and dread of violence at the hands of unknown and unauthorized forces.

We therefore declare our fidelity to the basic principles of American government, and to the flag which protects our lives, our homes, and the sacredness of our persons. In all fairness we demand at the hands of public officials the same protection of manhood, mob-violence, or the illegal taking of human life.

We are convinced that if, less, not only of our own race, but of the Negro race to which we are bound by cords which cannot be broken,

undermines constituted authority, and unused outside of our own demand for full justice for the Negro, more consideration for his civilization, substitutes mob-violence, and masked irresponsibility for established justice," and deprives society of a sense of protection against barbarism.

Therefore, we believe that "no Southern manhood than that mob violence is necessary for the protection of womanhood," or that the brutal practice of lynching and burning of human beings is an expression of chivalry. We believe that these methods are no protection to the eyes of the world, and that which holds up the shield of anything or anybody, but that itizes all those who come within its womanhood in defense of the crime.

We believe that the double standard of morals in sex and in race is a quicksand underneath our civilization. We appeal for a public sentiment which will no longer tolerate this barbaric practice of lynching. We believe that brings Mississippi into disrepute if there is no greater fallacy than that which holds up the shield of lynch and burning of human beings.

As southern women we hold that no circumstances can ever justify such a sentiment and condemn all such practices.

Kentucky

While fully sensible of the finch mob action and that in no instance is it an exhibition of chivalric con-

vention of the purity of all womanhood and we urge that the integrity of our civilization is endangered. The lynchings, and burning of the Negro home shall be held accountable for their acts, urge all sheriffs to meet and lynchings that have taken place throughout the nation in such appalling

We believe that all citizens and call upon grand juries and numbers have brought not only our property by the constituted authorities who have unlawfully slaughtered six

Witnessing these atrocities, the sensibilities of great masses of men

and women have been deadened, and even little children have had their lives blighted; yet even women have sometimes stood in benumbed silence, either fearing or not knowing how to utter a cry of protest.

We hold that no circumstances can justify the disregard of civil rights involved in every possible way to the lynchings and other forms of mob agencies constituted by the people.

for the apprehension, trial and punishment of offenders against society.

We deplore the fact that suchishment of offenders against society have so stigmatized our people. We resent the assertion that

deeds have so stigmatized our people that in non-Christian countries criminality can be controlled by our Christian civilization is dis-

honor protected by savage acts of

Therefore, while thankful for our Kentucky law against lynching and the fact that it has been upheld, we pledge ourselves to uphold our officials in every effort to enforce the law and to use our utmost influence to secure the speedy prosecution of ~~labeled~~ in mob murder and of public officials who fail to uphold the law.

We believe that the government should protect all citizens, regardless of class or color, and that life and property should be held sacred.

We hold, therefore, that no circumstances can ever justify such disregard of law and human rights

as is involved in the crime of lynching and other forms of mob violence, and that in no instance

can this be regarded as an exhibition of chivalry.

Louisiana

We register herewith our protest against the barbaric custom of lynching, which arouses violent and unchristian passions, brings law into disrepute, is inhuman and bru-

South Carolina

We believe that the double standard of morals in sex and in race is a quicksand underneath our civili-

Mississippi

zation. We place ourselves on record as a quicksand underneath our civili-

zation. We appeal for a public senti- ment which will no longer tolerate this

brutal practice of lynching and burn-

ing of human beings is an expres-

destroys the majesty of the law all

womanhood.

Tennessee

Unless lawlessness and mob vio-

tion of the purity of all womanhood and we urge that the integrity of our civilization is en-

hanced and we urge that the integrity calling out troops to suppress mob

activities, urge all sheriffs to meet and lynchings, and burn-

ings that have taken place through-

We believe that all citizens and call upon grand juries and numbers have brought not only our

Christianity, but also our civilization should be protected in their lives.

Witnessing these atrocities, the sensibilities of great masses of men

and women have been deadened, and even little children have had their lives blighted; yet even women

have sometimes stood in benumbed silence, either fearing or not knowing how to utter a cry of protest.

No longer can we fail to find our voice and to act with all possible vigor. We therefore pledge ourselves—

1. To strive to arouse public opinion in every possible way;

2. To uphold our public officials in their efforts to enforce law;

3. To use our utmost influence in such law-making as shall bring about the speedy prosecution of all who engage in mob violence and all officials who fail to uphold the law.

Texas

"Lynching is the black spot on America's soul." So long as America holds the record for its illegal taking of life, so long as the headlines of foreign papers carry in large letters "America Burns An

other Negro," just so long will he be Resolved, (1) That we deplore the shame be world-wide. We have no failure of state governments to hang security unless the law protects us; this, the most conspicuous enemy Mob violence knows no law. As my to justice and righteousness, and women, as the mothers of men, we the most flagrant violation of the protest. We condemn every violation of the Constitution of our great nation; of law in the taking of life (2) That we definitely set ourselves to the task of creating such no matter what the crime.

We declare ourselves for law and sentiment as is possible to us in right to prompt and sustained justice in each State of our territory to the order at all costs. The public has a demand that not only sufficient laws be made and should demand such of shall be enacted to enable the officials and courts. We believe that trusted officers of the law to disperse America should not permit ignor charge their full duty, but to sentence and prejudice to be capitalized cure the enforcement of the laws

Virginia now in existence;

We declare ourselves for a single (3) That this resolution be pre-standard of morals, for the presented to all our co-operating organization of all womanhood, and for equal organizations and State Committees punishment for all offenders against in an effort to put into effect such he same.

plans as are necessary to secure a We stand uncompromisingly against sustained effort on the part of our awlessness in all forms, for the ad-women to the accomplishments of administration of justice through the these ends. regular official channels and not by self-constituted bodies for which

The wish that 1929 would be a lynchless year has been shattered. Last year Florida was among the states leading in the number of persons lynched, and this year she is leading the list, having the first lynching of the

Woman's General Committee, Commission on Interracial Co-operation fair has 2/3/29

accused man was placed in jail at Tampa for safe keeping. The jailer was presented a practiced only as a punishment by note purporting to be from the sheriff of the mob for the violation of woman county where the offense was committed hood, is now resorted to even for asking for his delivery. This was done with robbery, petty crime, or no crime; the result of the lynching party. The matter should be minutely investigated and if

Whereas, At present the responsibility for the punishment of lynch is right, the guilty persons will surely be punished. solely in the several state governments; and

Whereas, We the Woman's Committee of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, are overwhelmed with a deep sense of humiliation that this hideous crime is heralded abroad as the only means available to men for the protection of womanhood; and

Whereas, We likewise suffer because of the seeming impotence of our state governments in the protection of human life and in their inability to find and punish lynchers and members of mobs, who, in the absence of sufficient law enforcement by the regularly constituted authorities, presume to assume

the role of judge and jury—thus themselves becoming the greatest threats and did no damage, but were reported

to have been armed. The sheriff in seeking to round them up, says he came upon a list bearing the names of twenty-five colored men who had banded themselves together to avenge the punishment of one of their number. Eight men were arrested, brought before two trial justices and received fines of \$300 each and six months in jail.

Let us follow the contrast: In the Gastonia case the mob did actual damage. It destroyed private property, and set itself up as the law. A grand jury holds nobody responsible.

In the Carrsville case the automobile party neither makes threats or does any damage. But no investigating grand jury is needed. An enterprising sheriff rounds up the whole would-be-mob, and comes into court with documentary evidence against its members. Two magistrates are convinced and convictions speedily follow. Such incredible things as twenty-five semi-literate rural Negroes signing or consenting to have signed their names to some paper with the plain purpose indicated on it of doing injury to some white person in the neighborhood, and then handing the paper in a manner that allowed it to fall into the hands of the white sheriff, does not matter. When Virginia seeks to deal with one of its hand made mobs, only a sheriff, some deputies and two justice of peace are needed.

North Carolina has a better record for apprehending and punishing mobs than Virginia, but in this comparison the Old Dominion leads the Old North State by many jumps. Tar-heelia did admirably well in dealing with its mobs until it ran up against one that had been hatched out of its industrial ambitions and in favor of its exile barons, then it flunked completely. Virginia never has had anything but a sorry record in dealing with mobs until it found one so accommodating as to make no threats and do no damage, yet go to a filling station, have it become known that its members were armed, then put their names on a list indicating their unlawful designs, then permit the list to fall into the hands of the sheriff.

Now Virginia has made its first record in dealing out punishment to one of its mobs, but it was a hand made one.

MISSISSIPPI AGAIN

The state showing the lowest per cent of progress is notoriously noted for its lawlessness, in fact, it is leading all of the other states in its lynching record. It raced for this honor last year and won it, and already this year it is a great distance in advance of the other states.

One more was added to its lynching record last Saturday when a colored man was caught by a mob and killed. He was accused of killing a white man. With just a little more consideration on the part

of the white man, he could have been alive to-day as well as the colored man. The report given from the white man states that the colored man violated his contract to work and when requested to return to the farm the colored man immediately pulled a long knife and fatally stabbed him. This is a very unusual occurrence. Imagine a white man meekly approaching a colored man in the rural districts and mildly asking him to return to work. If the event were not so tragic it would cause a smile. Those acquainted with the treatment accorded colored tenants by a certain type of white men, can readily decide that the white man was the aggressor, and with the proper evidence submitted, the colored man would be shown to have acted in self-defense. This white man thought that he could pounce upon the colored man in any manner without the least resentment. It is entirely too late now for him to find out differently. This recalls an incident witnessed on a public road in a nearby county some time ago. A young colored man employed as a driver of a cart in road building gang, was ordered by one of the bosses to drive in a certain direction. He could not make the mule move fast enough, whereupon the white man cursed and at the same instance pummeled him off the cart and proceeded to beat him severely. The colored man said not a word nor did he make a move to defend himself other than putting his arms about his face to ward off the blows of the white man. The assailant desisted only after another white man stopped him. This colored man was indeed meek and no doubt saved his life by not resisting, but how it made the blood boil. That day there could have been serious trouble with just the slightest resentment on the part of the Negro. The colored man resumed his work. The white man expects every Negro man to be just as meek as this one and when one is found who is otherwise he is always a "bad nigger." Proper treatment will end most of the trouble of this kind.

Lynchings-1929

Discussions

AS TO WHOSE OX IS GORED.

Press reports from Paris, Ill., tell of efforts on the part of a mob of Negroes to take William McAmy, a Negro held bad as a mob of whites endeavoring to take the law into by officers of the law on the charge of attacking a young girl of the racial group, with the avowed intention of lynch him. The alleged rapist was held in jail and on Tuesday night a mob appeared with demands that he be turned over to them for the purpose of wreaking vengeance because of the crime he is said to have committed.

The following night the same group of would-be mob-busters gathered and it became necessary to reinforce the guards about the jail to protect the prisoner.

The mob was made up of members of the same race that is denouncing mob violence in the loudest tones. Hardly a speaker of the racial group mounts the platform but that strong denunciatory terms are directed at mob violence. Many sections of the country where mobs have been active in order to have come in for their share of severe criticism because of others. The situation as it is now indicates that it only depends on "whose ox is gored," and so long as it isn't their mabbists and the victims, in the majority of cases, were Negroes. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, as well as Dr. Moton of Tuskegee, has for many years been spending money and time compiling reports telling of the number of lynchings, such compilation having been made and published with a view of creating sentiment favorable to such legislation as would impose severe punishment for acts of mobs and put a stop to the terrible evil.

Now it is that we find a group of Negroes themselves forming a mob for the purpose of lynching one of their own number. The Negro is going to find sooner or later that his efforts to divert injustices as practiced by other races toward him will never cease until he is void of such evil tendencies himself. When the Negro racial group contends for a strict observance of the law, he must understand that he must observe the law as well as the white man or any other man.

The writer had occasion to observe the attitude of a large number of the racial group who attended a trial in one of the local courts recently. Disorder reigned supreme and one would hardly have expected to find as many thoughtless men and women in a civilized community as attempted to exhibit their disfavor of the defendant who was standing trial. The fact that they were assembled in a court room was seemingly lost sight of as loud expressions of disapproval at statements made by witnesses were voiced to such extent that the presiding jurist found it repeatedly necessary to pound his gavel on the desk for order. If a Negro defendant had been before the court under circumstances that brought as many white spectators to the court room as were there on the occasion here referred to, and if white spectators had engaged in such boisterous conduct toward him, the Negro racial group would have been loudest in condemnation and would have been ready to solicit the aid of counsel to appeal from any adverse decision, on the grounds that the court room crowd was of a threatening and intimidating attitude. Yet these

Negro Press (Southern).

6

very same Negroes felt that their conduct was right and perfectly in order.

A mob of Negroes bent on lynching a Negro is just as murderous conduct and disrespect for the law as a mob made up of any other race members. If a crime has been committed, the law should be allowed to take its course, regardless as to who has suffered and how heinous a crime has been staged. Respect for our courts, both when in session and during recess, must be directed with more earnestness and precision and there must be a higher regard

for law and order in every community, north as well as in the southland, among black men as well as whites. It is not out of place to openly warn members of the Negro racial group that they must first get their own house in order before they begin demanding a housecleaning for Lynchings having been staged. Such cases involved white persons in "whose ox is gored," and so long as it isn't their

FOUR LYNCHINGS IN SIX MONTHS

The Tuskegee release shows the small number of four lynchings or mob murder in this country for the first half of the year. That is a gratifying showing, viewed from one angle. But disgraceful looking after from the standpoint of civilization and Christianity. Four lynchings only, but it is just four too many. What is the matter any way with the self governing ability of southern white that it is necessary to supplement their organized system of orderly administration of the law with the cowardice and cruelty of mobs? The following states with their battling average are in the race for the lynching pennant: Florida 2; Mississippi, 1; Tennessee, 1. So far, Florida has the edge, but look out for our Mississippi, Tennessee finds itself rather strange company as in late years she has been succeeding in passing as a civilized state, despite her "Monkey law."

Of the four lynched 1 was a white man. The offenses charged were: Rape 2; Killing plantation owner 1; Not removing rubbish and resisting an officer 1. Of course, these are excuses given. The real reason however, for those lynchings is the inability of the whites to administer honesty to their own laws. If the lynchers even thought that they would be punished for violating the law, there would not have been a single lynching.

Let us hope, however, that the last half of 1929 will show even a fewer number of mob victims.

2854

WALTER WHITE GETS THREAT OF TAR, FEATHERS

Asks Southerners To Postpone "Party" Until Weather Becomes Cooler

New York City—Those persons who are eager to tar and feather Walter White for his expose of lynching in his book "Rope and Faggot: A Biography of Judge Lynch" have been requested by the author to wait until cooler weather. "tar being SO sticky and messy."

Defamatory letters threatening such treatment followed the lengthy and favorable review of Mr. White's book which Time Magazine published recently. Several of these letters were published in the July 8 issue of that news magazine.

Defends Lynching

The mildest of these was a telegram cancelling a subscription to Time. One Robert E. Lee of Greenville, S. C., declares that "if anyone ever needed a coat of tar and feathers its the author of 'Judge Lynch'". Eldon O. Haldane of Atlanta, Ga., brazenly defends lynching, declaring that "the well-balanced Southerner hopes that lynching of Negroes will increase rather than decrease, that Cracker fiendishness and cruelty . . . will never diminish, that persecution, prosecution of and fury against the Negro will prevail until their numbers are eliminated or substantially reduced, and preferably exterminated."

This writer urges Congressional legislation against the Negro and declares that "down here we don't care if all the Negroes are lynched, or even burned or slit ope nwth knives."

In a reply to the threats made because of his expose of lynching, Walter White pointed out in a letter to Time that such reactions as those of Messrs. Lee and Haldane proved one of the main contentions of "Rope and Faggot" as to the inherent lawlessness which lynching has engendered.

Telegraph Calls Mississippi "Plague Spot of Lynching"

Copies Sent by Advancement Association to Coolidge and to Congress.

New York, Jan. 2.—The State of Mississippi, whose two lynchings in the past week, raise the year's record in the United States from 9 to 11, is called the "plague spot of lynching in America," in a telegram sent today to Governor Theodore Bilbo by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue.

In the telegram, Mississippi's "anarchic indifference to human life and standards of common decency essential to essential to civilization" are hailed "You, Governor Theodore Bilbo of Mississippi, and the lynchers you encourage, are the best possible argument for a federal anti-lynching law, by which the might of the federal government would crush out the atrocities which shame America before the civilized world. Copies of this telegram to you are being sent to President Coolidge and to the presiding officers of both House of the Congress of the United States."

Dalhousie
"Mississippi again stands pilloried before the civilized world as the plague spot of lynching in America, having raised the total for the United States during 1928 from 9 to 11, with two brutal mob murders in the last week of the year. One of these atrocities was the burning alive of a man at the stake. Five of the 11 lynchings this column or any other editorial column in of the year are charged against Mississippi.

"It is reported by the press that you called out troops to hunt the gruesome details of the lynching of Shepherd; Negro but declined to use those they have told of the seven-hour deliberateness of the 2000 murderous hounds who raped the process of law when the mob's victim had been captured. It is further reported that you viewed the charred body of the burned man and then escaped at the ends of the law have in one made a public statement saying that cord, and scathing language scored the diabolical investigation of the outrage would be made at your instigation as you for his criminal nonchalance before and after the lynching, and that is about all the most

MISSISSIPPI OUTHUNS THE HUNS!

hopeful optimist can look for. Governor Bilbo lost no time in letting the country know just what he intended to do about it. Immediately after viewing the charred corpse of Charlie Shepherd, the Governor said: "I have neither the time nor the money to investigate 2000 people." That is plain language. It means that the final chapter of that fiendish episode, insofar as official Mississippi is concerned, has been written. The State will do nothing about it.

The State did nothing about the four preceding lynchings of 1928 nor does it care a whit about the record of having lynched nearly half of all the persons lynched in the country during the last year. The State under its present government is hopelessly lost to savage control, and its barbarians heed not the voice of God or man.

We can only commend the Southern newspapers which so promptly and vehemently condemned this transcending outrage upon humanity, the law and civilized conscience. There is no doubt that their persistent scathing of lynching has done much toward bringing the annual record to the lowest point. If they neither faint nor falter they may in the course of time project a light into benighted Mississippi. That State has treated the world to the most appalling instance of official cowardice, or even asquiescence in a most flagrant lynching, but there is no doubt that the very brutality and frequency of its acts, serves to intensify public sentiment in other sections of the country against this fiendish pastime, common only to highly civilized America.

During the World War, the allied nations magnified every atrocious offense, martial and otherwise, committed by the Germans who were constantly referred to as the Huns; but it has remained for Mississippi, 1928 pennant winner in Judge Lynch's League, to "outhun" the Huns in the recent mobocratic demonstration at Rome, when more than 2500 men, women and children of the white race buried a black criminal and fiend to death on the public square.

The black man, serving time in the penitentiary, had been accused of slaying a prison attache and then criminally assaulting the dead white man's youthful daughter, and news dispatches stated that the Negro accepted full responsibility for these alleged brutal and bestial crimes before his death.

If this Negro, or any other man, had so reverted to the brute and barbarian as to commit such an unpardonable offense against society and civilization, he deserved and merited the most severe punishment that the state could inflict upon him; but there was neither necessity nor excuse for a mob of hinnish and heathenish Nordics taking the law into their own hands, and thus trampling the majesty of the law under their profane and unholy feet.

The courts of any state, North, South, East or West, would have seen fit that such a fiend and beast, if his guilt had been firmly established, paid for such a heinous and shocking crime and with all the law-enforcing agencies in the hands of whites mob-law is never necessary or justified.

It does not require any bravery for a robust and strong man to criminally outrage a girl of tender years, nor is courage a prerequisite for a man who slays another man without provocation; but even when some human being so forgets himself as to become a brute and fiend and literally runs amuck, the orderly processes of legal tribunals should be resorted to for inflicting upon him the deserving punishment.

The lynching statistics for 1928 had just been released a day or two before this Mississippi lynching orgy, and, while the old Mudcat State had already copped the mobocratic flag for 1928 with three lynching bees, the state has staged two additional demonstrations since then, and thus led the field with 5 for the past year.

Instead of 9 lynchings during 1928, Mississippi increased the number to 11, and of that number 5 of the stunts were reeled off in Mississippi; the state's nearest competitors being Texas and Louisiana, with 2 each.

Since the states seem to be either impotent to halt the depredations of the mobs, or indifferent and unconcerned, the issue is being put squarely up to the national government, and federal legislation seems absolutely imperative to outlaw this infamous American institution.

One thing is certain, however: One can always rely upon Mississippi to "out-hun" the Huns, and other teams in the Lynch League, Incorporated, are placed at quite a disadvantage in trying to win the pennant in the same loop with the Mudcat entry.

Once again the number of lynchings for the year was released too soon. Last year the number of lynchings was given out two days before the end of the year. Mississippi promptly lynched another. This year, again the number of lynchings—given as 9—Dr. A. J. Barton of Atlanta and thrives where lynching thrives. What was released for publication two days before the year actually ended. Mississippi again proceeded to belie such figures, pulling the convention and published in state to make his home that stands off one of the most rural counties. There is no use the minutes. In full it is as follows:

Published by the

lynching column? No real progress can be made in Mississippi as murder. Their civilization—whatever it is—has not been of lynchings shows a marked decrease until lynchings are stopped." The character and kind as to impress upon them that law and not passion is the only safe path to decent existence and progress. The kind of people Mississippians are shown by their chief of lives were sacrificed to mob violence when an awakened and outraged officers who don't know their onions." Says their Governor, as against sixteen for 1927, public opinion so decrees. To Mr. Bilbo speaking of the lynching: "I have neither time nor money to investigate 2,000 people. He had plenty of time and money too to order out the National Guard to help run down the telegraphed officers of the N. A. A. C. P. who protested against a lynching, "Go to hell."

The Adjutant-General—Mr. Hairston—who called out the militia said, speaking of the lynching that the troops were called out to aid in capturing the Negro and, if possible, to deliver him to the law, but "not to kill a lot of people in doing so."

To cap the climax, a Coroner's jury was dumb enough to bring in the following verdict: "We, the Coroner's jury, after due examination of the body of Charley Shepard, convict No. 1381 of the Mississippi penitentiary at Parchman, do find that he came to his death from causes unknown to this jury." Everybody in Mississippi—and without the State too—know that Shepard was burned to death. This jury however, after "due examination," just couldn't find out what caused his death. Maybe, it had a suspicion that Shepard died of some kind of fever, but, of course it was not just quite sure. Now, with officers of such ideas of duty and right, can there be any wonder that Mississippi leads the world in lynching?

Slot machines are hunted down and arrested in South Carolina but not lynchers. Slot machines, you see, are detrimental to the good moral health.

Lynching Is Denounced By Baptists

"A Badge of Shame on Our Civilization"

SAYS CONVENTION

Must Eradicate Every Yes-tige of Barbarism

Memphis, Tenn., May 22 Te-

nouncing the lynching habit as "a badge of shame to our civilization," the Southern Baptist Convention at its recent annual session in this city urged that every effort be made to build up and maintain "a public sentiment that will establish justice and banish from our borders the appalling practice of mob violence." "Never should we be content," said the Convention, "until every vestige of this barbarity is eradicated and every individual has secured to him the right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

The significance of this statement is found in the fact that the Convention represents the largest religious group in the south with

20,000 churches and a membership back to the methods of the Dark Ages. Mob law, if allowed to thrive in our country, would destroy the freedom and liberty of our citizens and requesting that the N. A. A. C. P. be permitted to be represented before the Commission at such hearings as might be held. Specific inquiry is made as to whether either of the eleven fields of study marked out for special study by sub-committees of the commission will cover the phases of lawlessness set forth in previous communications and data submitted to the Commission by the N. A. A. C. P. The Association's letter follows:

Hon. Geo W. Wickersham, chairman Commission on Law Enforcement and Observance.

"My dear Mr. Wickersham:

"On June 19, I wrote a letter addressed, through you, to the Commission on Law Enforcement and Observance, in which I called attention to the interest which this

Association on behalf of the Negro citizens of America has in the question of law enforcement. I also sent to you documents relating to lynchings and crimes of violence committed with impunity against colored citizens, to legislative infringement upon the Negro's constitutional rights, and to judicial procedure and decisions which fortify the belief in certain parts of the country that citizens of the United States may be discriminated against in the administration of the law on the ground of race and color.

"Following the announcement of the Commission, through the press, that public hearings would be held in New York and other cities, I made the request that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People be permitted to be represented before the Commission fully on those aspects of race relations in America which threaten public peace and good order and which have been and still are productive of crime, violation of law and social maladjustment.

"I wrote in the New York Times of August 8th that the Commission has marked out eleven fields of study and appointed from the membership of the commission sub-committees to operate in each field. I am writing to inquire if either one of these eleven fields of study which have been marked out will

N. A. A. C. P. Asks Hearing On Lynching Before Law Enforcement Commis-

New York, August 16—James American, Hattiesburg, Miss., and Weldon Johnson, secretary of the Vicksburg Herald, Vicksburg, Miss., unhesitatingly condemning the brutality of mobs and appealing to enlightened public sentiment and written to Hon. George W. Wicker the American sense of right for the protection of the life of the condemned or accused against this form of violence. Speaking of mob violence, the Vicksburg Herald says communication sent the Commission "It is brute force applied in action with accompanying data, re atrocious way and it is a throw-lating to lynchings and crimes o

"Yours very sincerely,
(Signed) James Weldon Johnson
"secretary"

for the Advancement of Colored People.

(Signed)

James Weldon Johnson

"secretary"

Lynchings-1929
Discussions

Negro Press. (Southern).

2856

LYNCHING EVIL AND THE NEGRO

According to a news release from Atlanta, Georgia, the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, through its director, recently sent a telegram to the governor of Florida, deprecating the latest demonstration of Hunnish Kultur in the Everglade State, and calling upon the state executive for a "prompt apprehension and conviction of the perpetrators."

Going further in the message to the Florida governor, the commission's telegram said: "However heinous the victim's crime lynching can have no defense under a government of law."

The Negro, who was the victim of the mob's hellish fury and heathenish orgy, had been accused of committing a criminal outrage upon a young white girl, yet the guilt of the defendant had never been established by due process of law. 11-30-29

The Informer has contended that it is not the crime so much as it is the color of the alleged criminal and the racial connection of the alleged victim which enrages mobs and influences judges and jurors in their decisions.

Right here in Houston, at least four or five cases of criminal attacks, where all the principals were white, have taken place during this year, and not in one solitary instance has a single culprit been brought before the bar of justice for such an alleged barbaric and bestial offense, although several arrests were made.

On the other hand, in one case where a Negro was accused of attacking a white girl, he was given a speedy trial and sentenced to prison for life notwithstanding he proved an alibi through the testimony of reputable witnesses, and much of the state's evidence was fishy and as full of holes as a sieve.

Why has the state refused to bring these alleged white rapists to trial here? Well, there is where the rub lies!

The Negro is a victim of lynch law, both legal and illegal, not because of the crimes charged at his hands, but rather because of the color of his skin and the double standard of citizenship which holds sway in this country, most notably in the South.

This double standard, with one law to convict and punish black for the least offense, and the other to exonerate and absolve whites for the most heinous crime, is making a mockery of justice and constitutes a criminal outrage upon American institutions and ideals.

As long as there is such a dual standard in this country and all their morale. Alleged criminals are tried and punished more on account of their racial affiliation than the misdeeds charged against them, we are going to have lynch law in some form.

The Negro is victimized more by mobocracy and other outlived forms of lynch law. Rages and injustices than any other racial group in our polyglot constituency, and it is because the law of the land, particularly of the South, sets the black race down or forth as a "thing" apart from the rest of the population.

The Negroes are disfranchised, segregated, proscribed against and then labeling the entire race as criminals and parasites, Jim-crowed and otherwise regarded and treated as beasts rather than as human beings; and even in most courts of Dixie there are two types of justice—one for white citizens and another for colored people.

Perhaps it can be stated better by saying that the law of the South is pro-white and anti-Negro.

In other words, if a white man is charged with committing some offense against the state and society, he is given every bene-

fit of the doubt and considered innocent until his guilt is firmly established through due process of law; whereas as soon as a crime is laid at the hand of some Negro, he is immediately judged guilty and in numerous instances all the favorable testimony adduced in behalf of the accused black man can not and does not change or allay the mobocratic spirit pervading the court.

Preventive methods are getting better results nowadays than curative measures, for there is still much truth in the ancient adage that "a stitch in time saves nine."

If the Negro's status were the same as other American citizens; if he could exercise and enjoy his constitutional and inalienable rights of citizenship; if the constitution of the United States were something more than a "mere scrap of paper;" if the laws of the land were administered fearlessly and impartially; if our boasted democracy were not a hollow mockery and our professed Christianity were not as "sounding brass and tinkling cymbals," there would be few manifestations of mob law, either through legal tribunals or by the devotees of Judge Lynch's famous American pastime.

It is both absurd, inconsistent and preposterous to preach a doctrine on one hand advocating the abolition of lynch law, while on the other hand the very practice pursued by the expounders of this gospel tends to create and feed the mob spirit.

As long as Negroes are held enmeshed in political slavery, economic bondage, denied their constitutional prerogatives and inherent rights and otherwise classified and treated as beasts of burden, just so long will mob law hold sway in this country.

Inferior railroad accommodations on the common carriers of the South are nothing but the manifestations of lynch law; for black passengers are forced to pay the same fare as other passengers, yet denied and refused first-class service. This is both lynch law and grand larceny!

Forcing Negroes to reside in the worst sections of the city, with attendant bad living conditions, disease, ignorance and crime, is attributable to the spirit of Judge Lynch, the dominant figure in the life of the South.

Taxation without representation is one of the devious methods employed by Judge Lynch to rob Negroes of their rights under the constitution, to divest them of all self-respect and to destroy their morale.

Railroading Negroes to the gallows, electric chair and penal institutions for the most trivial offense, and in many instances where the evidence proves conclusively their innocence, is a legal example of mobocracy, with its laughable inconsistency.

Paying the Negro starvation wages and then expecting him to become a fine, honest, upstanding American citizen, is another example of mobocracy, with its laughable inconsistency.

Refusing to educate and train the Negro for intelligent citizenship, or any other organization, which is seeking to combat this dreaded monster and remove the damnable scourge from the confines of our national commonwealth, but this paper contends that such efforts could be accelerated if such bodies

would endeavor to safeguard to the black race all its rights and warranties under the constitution and bill of rights of this republic.

FREE LYNNCHERS! FIRE OFFICERS!!

Another chapter was written in the Houston lynching case recently, when a Harris County jury acquitted another white man indicted for participation in the mobbing of Robert Powell, a Negro who was abducted from a local hospital on the morning of June 20, 1928, and carried several miles from the city and hanged by a small body of lynchocrats.

According to the evidence adduced at this trial, as well as the trial of two other of the alleged lynchers, the defendant stated that he only confessed to the crime upon the plea of certain local police officers, who told him that the city's reputation was at stake and that somebody had to be arrested to save Houston's fair name.

Going a bit further, this defendant stated that certain local police officers assured him that the confession would not amount to anything and that he would be given immunity, if ever brought to trial.

The defendant proved a "perfect alibi" and the jury could hardly convict any man under such circumstances.

The Informer, while eager and anxious to see the hellish huns of Minton and former cases of two other alleged participants in who lynched Powell, punished, is opposed to convicting an innocent man for the crime and making him a scapegoat for the tardy and diabolical depredations of others, in order to save the hide and jobs of others.

If any police officers induced these arrested men to confess to this damnable crime, as related in court by the defendant, then the lynchers should be freed and the officers guilty of such action should be fired summarily from the police department!

At the time of the lynching, just on the eve of the Democratic National Convention, all eyes of the nation were turned on Houston and the city was filled at the time with representatives of the press from all sections of the country.

The governor of Texas rushed Texas Rangers to the city, for the Rangers rarely fail to get their man; but as soon as the Rangers reached the city the local police department announced arrests had been made and confessions obtained from about six or seven whites, most of them mere youths, baring their part in the atrocious and barbaric mobbing of Powell, who lay dangerously wounded in a local hospital as a result of a bullet from a police officer's pistol.

When news of the lynching was flashed over the city, state and nation, rewards were offered by the city council of Houston and the governor of the state for the arrest and conviction of the guilty culprits, and local peace and constabulary officers purported to show unusual activity to apprehend the perpetrators of the first lynching orgy in the history of Houston.

If the indicted men were not guilty of the lynching, why did the police department single them out as the "scapegoats," and why was no effort made to catch the real offenders, since the police officers knew at the time of the arrests, that these accused men were being used merely as a soporific portion to lull the community, state and society to sleep and at the same time "put one by" the unsuspecting public?

Why were certain records in the case stolen from the district attorney's office, and why did the mayor's committee, appointed at the time to investigate the mobocratic demonstration, resign without organizing and functioning?

Did the district attorney's office and the citizens' committee know at the time that there was something rotten, not in Denmark, but in "Heavenly Houston?"

Did this committee believe that the arrested men were the guilty culprits, and did the prosecuting attorney's office hold to the same opinion?

Why did the Harris County grand jury present a true bill against these alleged lynchers, if this inquisitorial body knew that their apprehension and incarceration were simply a clever stroke on the part of the local police department as means to an end.

Why spend the tax-payers' money to stage such farcical trials, when every sensible and rational person knows that it is impossible to convict any man or set of men, under such circumstances; and that, even if convicted, the appellate court would most likely reverse and remand the decision?

Robert Powell was lynched by a small group of white men, and The Informer is firm in its belief that the local police department could have arrested the guilty culprits, if it had so desired; and it is our further belief that the police officers would not have needed to exert much energy and effort to effect such arrests.

The lynching incident did enough to disgrace Houston without staging such fiascos in the criminal courts, as in the recent case of Minton and former cases of two other alleged participants in this matter; and The Informer suggests that we free the other innocent man for the crime and make him a scapegoat for the alleged lynchers and fire the officers who conjured the confessions and thus defeated the ends of justice!

hide and jobs of others.

Lynchings - 1928
Discussions.

EVE. UNION
ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.
APR 29 1929

OUSTING JUDGE LYNCH

Encouraging progress in the work of wiping out lynching in the United States is reported in a bulletin from the commission of church and race relations of the Federal Council of Churches.

During 1928 there were 43 states in which no lynchings took place—the highest number since statistics of this kind were tabulated, and, without doubt, the highest number in the history of the country. The number of victims of the mob in other states—eleven—was also the lowest in history.

Lynch law is slowly dying out. The combination of enlightened public opinion and courageous officers of the law is cutting it down, year by year. It is not too much to hope that in the near future a lynching will be almost unknown throughout the United States.

NEWS

West Chester, Pa.

APR 26 1929

Lynchings Decline.

Not since 1889 has Christian America lynched so few of its Negro fellow-Americans as in the past year. There were only nine lynchings in 1928. The year before there were twenty-one, and in 1926, thirty-four, says Christian Herald.

SUN

APR 6 1929
**FEWER LYNCHINGS
IN UNITED STATES**

**Church Council Reports 43
States on 'Honor Role.'**

"Forty-three States were free from lynching during 1928, in comparison with forty-one States the preceding

year, thirty-eight States in 1926 and thirty-eight States in 1925," says the Commission on Race Relations of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America.

"This is the largest number of States and the greatest territory of the nation ever free of lynching," it continues. "The number of victims of the mob last year was also lower than in any preceding year since records have been kept."

The Honor Roll for 1928 includes three states—Arkansas, Kentucky and Tennessee—which were restored to the roll because they were again free of the evil; although New Mexico, which was on the Honor Roll in 1927, was removed because of the lynching of a Mexican," the commission reports. "Of the eleven persons lynched last year, five were in Mississippi, two in Texas, two in Louisiana, one in Missouri and one in New Mexico. However, according to the records of Prof. Monroe N. Work of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, considerable vigilance was practiced in that twenty-four attempted lynchings were prevented last year—three of them in Northern and twenty-one in Southern States."

Commenting upon the progress made on this problem, Dr. George E. Haynes, secretary of the Commission on Race Relations, said:

"America is slowly becoming a lynchless land. The reduction in the number of lynchings last year and the increase by two States of the territory free of this blot upon our democracy demonstrate the increasing pressure of public conscience upon those who would take the law into their own hands."

"It now seems clear that public opinion should be focused more and more upon the few remaining States where lynching persists, and every encouragement and aid should be given to the law-abiding citizens and public officials in those States that are struggling to make law and order supreme and to suppress the tendency to mob violence."

"The number of lynchings prevented every year shows what can be done. We look to the newspapers, white and negro; to the churches and to civic and religious leaders and organizations in this territory, as well as in other parts of the nation, to help bring this to pass. America must be a lynchless land to meet the eyes of the world without shame."

A summary of the report follows:

Total States free of lynching in 1928.....	43
Total States still having lynching in 1928.....	5
Total number of lynchings in 1928.....	11

White Press, (Northern)

PUEBLO, COLO.

MAR 29 1929

2852

*I Lynxian
Olympia, Wash.*

APR 1929

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Lynch law is slowly dying out. The combination of enlightened public opinion and courageous officers of the law is cutting it down, year by year. It is not too much to hope that in the near future a lynching will be almost unknown throughout the United States.

PRESS
MUNCIE, IND.

MAR 28 1929

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Banishing Judge Lynch

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TRIBUNE
COSHOCTON, O.

MAY 21 1929

CRIMINALITY AND MOBS

THE mood of the mob is as easy to understand as any other animal trait man shares with the savage beasts. It is a blend of sorrow for the victim and abhorrence for the criminal. Lynching is always more justification for a crime than punishment for it. Mob law shows that the criminal it destroys is not the only member of the community capable of taking human life without due process of law. When large groups of men and women will murder and torture, and whole communities will condone their deeds, it is not surprising that individuals will slay and steal.

There is a great deal of truth in the statement that lynching parties are composed of potential criminals, that those who are capable of taking the law into their own hands are capable of the crime that has provoked them to their mad frenzy. And the sooner society regards the lyncher as a criminal instead of a hero the sooner it will abolish lynchings.

It is only natural that human beings should be inflamed by the sight or thought of a little girl assaulted by a fiend or of a woman slain by a criminal. But civilized man no longer uses mob law to prove how sensitive he is. Old women are no longer burned as witches, and when murderers are executed society does not demand that their hearts be torn from the body and the corpse cut in four pieces and publicly exposed. Only a few years ago the public thought less of the sentence to be "hanged, drawn and quartered" than it now thinks of the sentence of death in the electric chair.

HITS BOXLEY LYNCHING

Negro Worker Calls for Defense Corps

By SOLOMON HARPER system out of existence and any

The brutal lynching of a 19-year-Negro who is not man enough to old Negro farm worker at Alamo, join the party may sooner or later Tenn., took place Wednesday night expect to be treated the same way engineered by a mob of capitalistic by the capitalist as 19-year-old Joe tools and members of the K. K. K. Boxley was.

Joseph Boxley, Negro farm worker, was arrested Wednesday of St. Louis, Mo., home of Jimcrow afternoons by Sheriff Emory, followism, spoke in Harlem to thousands of Negroes, telling a chauvinistic alarm that "A church-going Negro had attacked the wife of them that he will fight lynching bosses' magistrate John James." with an anti-lynching bill (invented Boxley was working in a field near for vote-getting purposes of the Re by and his arrest by the sheriff in-publican Party), now has his chance vited mob violence since the mists to fight lynching with guns. What trate conferred with his wife follow-will the money-collecting National ing the arrest of the farm worker Association for the Advancement of and the sheriff prompted Mrs. (Certain) Colored People, the Uni-James to say "Joe" by telling her Versal Negro Improvement Associa that they had arrested a Negrotion (Garvey's Club), The National Equal Rights League of Boston, worker by that name.

Boxley was spirited from the local jail at Trenton to Alamo where the lynchers, believed to be led by magistrat James, stormed the jail door and brutally mobbed the Negro worker without giving him a chance to say a word, or to fight for his life against the tools of the capitalistic slave and lynching system, for the past 30 years during which time over 3,500 Negroes have been practiced in the South on Negro workers and sometimes white workers as was done in Florida a few weeks ago.

It was only a few days ago that Edward F. McGrady, legislative representative of the "American Faker" a Negro was lynched not so many months ago. None of these organizations will recommend the organizing of defense unions of workers, who have been called from Gastonia, because to do this would mean the N. C., by the slaves on strike in Elizabethton, Tenn. Furthermore, bosses and the Southern bosses who scabs have been hired by the bosses of Tennessee to bomb strikers, poison their water, and help drive white working mothers back into the textile pens.

Those interested in stopping lynching should join the Mass Protest Parade of the Harlem Tenants' that the sun moves, that the world League on Saturday, June 1st, was destroyed by water, is a law, starting at 1 p. m., on 126th St., and where the Secretary of War near Fifth Ave.

James Good (Good for Wall Street) allows the uniformed national guard to shoot down striking white slaves. The Negroes of the South including those of my own state, Arkansas, and other states, should be organized into defense unions of workers to overthrow the slave lynching system which is grinding white and black workers to death in many ways. Only the Communist Party can be depended upon to drive the

NEW YORK TIMES

MAY 13 1928

WINNING EDITORIAL ASSAILED LYNCHING

Condemned Hanging Negro at Houston as "Unspeakable Act of Savagery."

WRITER SERVED IN THE WAR

Louis T. Jaffe, Editor of The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, Has Held Position for Ten Years.

Following is the Pulitzer prize editorial by Louis Isaac Jaffe, published June 22, 1928, in The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, Norfolk, Va.:

AN UNSPEAKABLE ACT OF SAVAGERY.

As the Democratic hosts prepare to rededicate themselves anew to fairness and justice, the bustling Southern city in which they are to meet is disgraced by an unspeakable act of savagery. There is no other way to describe the performance of the eight armed white men who yanked Robert Powell, 24-year-old negro, from a hospital cot on which he lay with a bullet in his stomach, and hanged him from a bridge just outside the city. Powell was under the charge of killing a detective in a shooting match from which he himself emerged with an apparently mortal wound. In the event of his recovery, he was headed for the courts. But to this Texas mob neither death nor justice was an acceptable arbiter. Nothing would satisfy them but a loathsome act of murder carried out against a human being while he lay in agony with a bullet in his entrails.

Houston, which is said not to have had a lynching in fifty years, is understandably stirred by this foul thing laid on its doorstep just when it was most anxious to show itself to the world at its cleanest. The City Council made an immediate appropriation of \$10,000 for an investigation to be carried out by a committee representative of both races. A grand jury has been ordered to drop all other business to conduct an immediate inquiry. The Governor has offered a reward for the capture of each participant in the lynching and sent a special detail of Texas Rangers to assist the Houston police in the hunt. Ap-

parently, the spotlight that beats on Houston at this particular time has had something to do with the energy with which the authorities have acted. Ordinarily, Texas justice proceeds in these matters with considerably less dispatch and excitement, but this is no time to inquire too closely into motives. One of the proudest cities of Texas has been polluted by one of the foulest forms of mob murder, and it is a matter for general satisfaction that the authorities are moving so energetically to repair the damage to Texas's good name. If the perseverance of the authorities is in keeping with their initial burst of energy, one or more of the group that bravely did to death a crippled man lying on a hospital cot may see the inside of the Texas penitentiary.

The year that saw four months pass without a single lynching has now accumulated five of them. Five lynchings in six months represent a proportional reduction in savagery from last year's record of sixteen lynchings in twelve months, but the year is only half gone and no one may be too confident. We have come a long way from the dark days of 1892, when America celebrated the four hundredth anniversary of its discovery with 255 lynchings, but we have not yet arrived at that social abhorrence of this crime that must precede its practical extinction. When eight presumably decent and rational beings can gain the consent of their conscience to rob a hospital bed for the purpose of executing summary vengeance and when, as was the case a few days ago in Louisiana, two negroes are torn from their guards and lynched because they were brothers of another negro who was accused of murder it must be recognized that the rise and fall of the lynching curve is governed by racial passions that remain still to be brought under civilized control.

Jaffe Born in Detroit.

Mr. Jaffe was born in Detroit, Mich., Feb. 22, 1888. Since his twelfth year he has lived in the South. He was graduated from the Durham (N. C.) High School in 1907 and from Trinity College (now Duke University) in 1911. He earned his way through college corresponding for North Carolina and Virginia newspapers and serving as student's instructor. On finishing college he went to work for The Durham (N. C.) Sun, beginning in the circulation department and ending as editor all in the space of six weeks at the end of which time he resigned to become a reporter for The Richmond Times-Dispatch. On this newspaper he served through the ranks and was political writer and assistant city editor when the United States entered the World War.

He served overseas with the 649th Aero Squadron. In the Spring of 1919, at his own request, he was mustered out in France and joined the American Red Cross Commission to the Balkan States at that time headed by Col. Henry W. Anderson of Richmond, Va. After executing several missions Mr. Jaffe went to Paris where he was for several months director of the American Red Cross News Service. He returned to the United States in 1919 to become editor of The Virginian-

Pilot—a post he has held for the last ten years. He is married and has a son.

NEWS TARENTUM, PA.

JUN 3 1928

CRIMINALITY AND MOBS

The mood of the mob is as easy to understand as any other animal trait manares with the savage beasts. It is a blend sorrow for the victim and abhorrence for the criminal.

Lynching is always more justification for a crime than punishment for it. Molw shows that the criminal it destroys is not the only member of the community capable of taking human life without due process of law. When large groups of men and women will murder and torture, and whole communities will condone their deeds, it is not surprising that individuals will slay and steal.

There is a great deal of truth in the statement that lynching parties are composed of potential criminals, that those who are capable of taking the law into their own hands are capable of the crime that has provoked them to their mad frenzy. And the sooner society regards the lyncher as a criminal the sooner it will abolish lynchings.

It is only natural that human beings should be inflamed by the sight or thought of a girl assaulted by a fiend or a woman slain by a criminal. But civilized man no longer uses mob law to prove how sensitive he is. Old men are no longer burned at the stake, or their limbs torn from the body and the corpse cut in four pieces and publicly exposed. Only a few years ago the public thought less of the sentence to be "hanged, drawn and quartered" than it now thinks of the sentence in the electric chair.

Lynchings - 1929

Discussions
STANDARD

St. Catharines, Ont.

MAY 18 1929

The Standard Book Review

LYNCHINGS FEWER IN U.S., BUT BRUTALITY MUCH INCREASED

Ten Per Cent. of 454 Victims of Last Decade Were
Burned Alive—Walter White Assigns Rapid Rise
of Negro Race as Cause

(By William Arthur Bacon) A negro was fairly cooked to death. Boldly claiming the moral leader. Every few minutes fresh leaves were ship of mankind, the United States tossed on the funeral pyre until the is probably the only country today blaze had passed the negro's waist. In which persons accuse of wrong. Even after the flesh had dropped doing are habitually punished by away from his legs and the flames burning at the stake, burning out of were leaping towards his face, Lowry eyes, tearing of the flesh, and other retained consciousness. Not once did forms of barbaric cruelty—without he whimper or beg for mercy. Once trial, many of the victims innocent, or twice he attempted to pick up the some not even accused of wrong by hot ashes and thrust them in his the mobs that kill them. Lynching mouth in order to hasten death. has gone on without interruption Each time the ashes were kicked out for a hundred years, and during the of his reach by a member of the last 46, at the rate of two a week mob. As the flames were eating From 1882 till 1927, 4,950 persons away his abdomen a member of the were lynched, 3,513 Negroes and mob stepped forward and saturated 1,437 whites, of whom 32 were wo-the body with gasoline. It was then men—16 white and 76 colored. While only a few minutes until the negro 74 per cent. of this la vlessness was had been reduced to ashes."

in the South, 44 out of the 48 states A farmer was killed in a wage dispute. Not finding the negro involved, the facts, given by the American another negro laborer on the same author, Walter White, in "Rope and farm was lynched. His wife spoke Faggot" (Longmans, Green) are harshly of her husband's murderers startling. Each is buttrassed by its Though within a month of accouche- archy." Anyway, in 1922 a federal ment, her ankles were bound to anti-lynching law passed Congress together, and by them she was hung by a vote of 230 to 119, and was to a tree head downwards. Gasoline and motor oil were thrown on her

The decrease in the number of clothes and fire set to them. She authority. First let us look at one still lived. A spectator said: "Mister, or two of these scenes to realize their you ought to've heard the nigger horror. Henry Lowry, a Negro, had wench howl!" I am sorry. I had ben promised protection and a fair intended to report honest; but trial by the governor of his state. what happened to Mary Turner after However, "the newspaper's were ad- that is too revolting for print. vised in time to issue early afternoon Luther Holbert, accused of mur- extras giving full details as to time, der, and his wife, accused of nothing, place and other arrangements for were burned at the stake after their the forthcoming lynching." What fingers had been cut off and distri- took place is told in the words of buted as souvenirs, their ears cut Ralph Roddy, who reported the off, and a "large corkscrew was event for the Memphis Press of bored into the flesh of the man and January 27, 1921: "Inch by inch the woman, in the arms, legs and body,

White Press, (Northern)

and then pulled out."

That is the sort of thing that has gone on from 1880 to the present. From 1890 to 1900, 1,665 persons were lynched; from 1900 to 1910, 921; from 1910 to 1920, 840; from 1920 to 1927, 304. "Against this gratifying decrease in the number of victims is the greatly aggravated brutality, often extending to almost unbelievable torture." From 1918 to 1927, 454 persons were lynched, 38 white and 416 negro; 42 were burned alive, 8 beaten or cut to death. Of the 416 negroes lynched, 15 per cent., or one in seven, "were done to death with abnormal savagery." Ten per cent. of the whites suffered the same fate. Mr. White has discovered that states with the greatest number of foreign borne have, in the main, the fewest lynching, and vice-versa, furnishing "justification for the charge that lynching is wholly an American custom."

Below are listed the records of the states with the most lynchings—the figures for the period 1882-1927. It will be noticed that these states are those with the highest percentage of illiteracy, are most backward in education, are most narrow and fanatical in religious matters, and have most to fear from the possible dominance of the blacks:

	Total	Whites	Negroes
Mississippi . . .	561	44	517
Georgia	549	39	510
Texas	534	164	370
Louisiana	409	62	347
Alabama	356	52	304
Arkansas	313	69	244
Florida	275	28	247
Tennessee	268	55	213
Kentucky	233	79	154
S. Carolina	174	9	165

"Until very recent times, and in most of the South, even today, no lynchers has ever needed to feel the



GOOD
NEWS

Planters Salted Peanuts are always as fresh as the latest Extra. Crisp as a newly-printed newspaper. As big and plump as the Sunday Edition.

with circulations up to 200,000. Finally, there is the "increasing tendency for Negroes to defend themselves." Mobs are notoriously cowardly; and one armed man, determined to sell his life dearly, is a real deterrent. But mobs have nothing to fear when the victims are taken from jails, insane asylums and hospitals.

If Mr. White's facts are startling, his explanations are staggering. "It is little realized that lynching is much more an expression of Southern fear of Negro progress than of Negro crime." After 1830 the method was used "for the purpose of putting down abolitionism." After the Civil War, "to re-enslave the Negro as far as humanly possible." The increased savagery is attributed to failure to suppress the Negro by Peaceful means. H. L. Mencken has said: Ku Kluxry is the Southern poor white's answer to the progress of the emerging Negro, once his equal and now threatening to become his superior." The fear is of the Negro's present economic power, and potential political power.

slightest apprehension regarding punishment or even the annoyance of an investigation." Mr. White states; and cites many cases of the authorities' inability or unwillingness to cope with the evil. For example, when J. P. Ivy, a Negro, was lynched, the Memphis News-Sciminar "published three photographs of the lynching, in which the faces of at least a hundred members of the mob were easily distinguishable." Yet a coroner's jury later returned the usual verdict that Ivy came to his death September 20, 1925, "at the hands of a mob, the members of which are unknown." Police oftenated 20,000 farms; by 1932 the number help the mobs; and the states with the worst records either will not pass anti-lynching laws or cannot enforce them.

Between 1887 and 1901 the United States government paid to China, Italy, Great Britain and Mexico a total of \$475,499,90 indemnities for lynching citizens of those countries

—at the rate of about \$3,000 each. So, in 1902, Congress passed a law against lynching of the foreign born; but it is thought constitutionally im- proper for the federal authority to legislate for the protection of its own citizens within its borders, on the ground that such an act would en- croach on the power of the individual states to punish murder.

The know why they were doing it. distinguished Negro author, James Weldon Johnson, has replied that Ku Klux Klan just when the war is murder plus revolution and an- lynching is more than murder: "It shut off the northern supply of migrant labor. Between 1916 and 1926, nearly 2,000,000 Negroes mi- grated north. Lynchings were used by the author to the courage- ous campaigning of public spirited citizens of both races, especially in the South; but after such attacks some of the white editors of leading Southern newspapers—notably the Columbus, Georgia, Enquirer-Sun, edited by Julian Harris, son of Joel

Chandler Harris who, in the face of "Discussion of lynching," Mr. White says "began and continued advertisers' boycotts, loss of sub- scribes and personal threats, has with, and is today made up almost wholly of arguments that the prac- groes, who considerably outnumber the entire population of Canada, men from rape." The figures show have fine newspapers of their own, that "less than one-fifth of the vic-

2870

charge by the very mobs which lynched them." The women of Alabama have declared: "We protest against the claim that lynching is necessary for the protection of white womanhood." Mr. White asserts that the Negro's propensity for sex crimes was unheard of before 1820, though they had been in the country for more than 200 years. Governor Hugh M. Dorsey of Georgia goes so far as to say: "A frequent cause of lynching is attempted protection of their women by Negroes from unwelcome attentions of white men."

Fear of the "insecurity of the color line" accounts for much of the trouble; and Mr. White slays yet another fallacy, that of the "inevitable repulsion between the races." Maryland had to pass a law against intermarriage in 1663. Virginia followed in 1691; and now 29 states have them. Strangely, the mixing of the blood goes on faster in states where intermarriage is forbidden. In sections of Virginia, from one-third to one-half of the white population is more or less negroid.

Surely the late President of Yale was temperate in saying: "It is unseemly that any one should be burned at the stake in a modern civilized state." Surely justice is in a precarious position when a man, acquitted of murder, can be taken immediately from the court-house and lynched. Surely more than the Negro is suffering harm under a system that teaches little children to speak of "the fun we had burning the niggers."

CITIZEN

Ottawa Can.

MAY 18 1929

Lynching Fewer in States But

Brutality Is Increased

More Than Ten Per Cent. of the 454 Victims of the Last Ten Years Were Burned Alive or Otherwise Tortured. Grand Total Since 1882 Is Nearly Five Thousand. Walter White Assigns Rapid Rise of Negro Race as Cause of Hostility.

By WILLIAM ARTHUR DEACON

LAVING CLAIM to the moral leadership of mankind, the United States is probably the only country today in which persons accused of

nocent, some not even accused of on her clothes and fire set to them. Georgia 549 39 510 wrong by the mobs that kill them. She still lived. A spectator said: Texas 534 164 370 Lynching has gone on without interruption for a hundred years, and during the last 46, at the rate of two a week. From 1882 till 1927, 4,950 per week. I had intended to report honestly: Arkansas 313 69 244 sons were lynched, 3,513 Negroes and 1,437 whites, of whom 92 were women. This is the 20th century. In South Carolina 174 9 165 —16 white and 76 colored. There 1904 Luther Holbert, accused of mur- "Until very recent times, and in is no federal law against it. Whileder, and his wife, accused of noth- most of the South, even today, no 74 per cent. of this lawlessness wasing, were burned at the stake after lynchings ever needed to feel the in the South, 44 out of the 48 states their fingers had been cut off and slightest apprehension regarding contributed their quotas, the only distributed as souvenirs, their ears punishment or even the annoyance ones with clean records being Mas-cut off, and a "large corkscrew was of an investigation," Mr. White sachussetts, Rhode Island, Newbored into the flesh of the man and states; and cites many cases of the Hampshire and Vermont. woman in the arms, legs and body, authorities' inability or unwillingness

What shall we say in view of this and then pulled out?" In 1925 a to cope with the evil. For example, appalling situation? I do not pro-sheriff was killed in a fracas with when J. P. Ivy, a negro, was lynched. I had intended to say anything beyond sum-some negroes. Though the sheriff's ed. the Memphis News-Scimitar marizing the startling facts, each deputies swore that "none of the ne- "published three photographs of the buttressed by its authority, given by groes was in a position to shoot the lynching, in which the faces of at the American author, Walter White, sheriff," Bertha Lowman and two least a hundred members of the mob in "Rope and Faggot" (Longmans, younger male cousins were made to were easily distinguishable." Yet a Green). First, let us look at one or run while the mob fired at them. It coronor's jury later returned the two of these scenes to realize their took 50 shots to finish the girl. usual verdict that Ivy came to his horrer. Henry Lowry, a negro, had That is the sort of thing that has death September 20, 1925, "at the been promised protection and a fair gone on from 1830 to the present, ris- hands of a mob, the members of trial by the governor of his state. ing to such peaks as the year 1868, which are unknown." Police often However, "the newspapers were ad- when more than 2,000 were killed in help the mobs; and the states with vised in time to issue early afternoon the single state of Louisiana within the worst records "either will not extras giving full details as to time, a few weeks, and sinking to the low pass anti-lynching laws or cannot place and other arrangements for average of 38 a year for the whole enforce them."

the forthcoming lynching." What United States in the present decade. In the 15 years between 1887 and took place is told in the words of From 1890 to 1900, 1,665 persons were 1901 the United States government Ralph Roddy, who reported the event lynched; from 1900 to 1910, 921; from paid to China, Italy, Great Britain for the Memphis Press of January 1910 to 1920, 840; from 1920 to 1927, and Mexico a total of \$475,499.90 in 27, 1921: "Inch by inch the negro was 304. "Against this gratifying de- demnities for lynching citizens of fairly cooked to death. Every few crease in the number of victims is those countries—at the rate of about minutes fresh leaves were tossed on the greatly aggravated brutality, \$3,000 each. So, in 1902, Congress the funeral pyre until the blaze had often extending to almost unbeliev- passed a law against the lynching of passed the negro's waist . . . Even able torture." From 1918 to 1927, the foreign born; but it is thought after the flesh had dropped away 454 persons were lynched, 38 white constitutionally improper for the fed- from his legs and the flames were and 416 negro; 42 were burned alive, eral authority to legislate for the pro-leaping towards his face. Lowry re- beaten or cut to death. Of the tection of its own citizens within its tained consciousness. Not once did 416 negroes lynched, 15 per cent., borders, on the ground that such an he whimper or beg for mercy. Once or one in seven, "were done to act would encroach on the power of or twice he attempted to pick up the death with abnormal savagery." Ten the individual states to punish mur- hot ashes and thrust them in his per cent. of the whites suffered the der. The distinguished negro author, mouth in order to hasten death same fate, Mr. White has discov- James Weldon Johnson, has replied Each time the ashes were kicked out ered that states with the greatest that lynching is more than murder: of his reach by a member of the number of foreign born have, in the "It is murder plus revolution and mob . . . As the flames were eating main, the fewest lynchings, and vice- away his abdomen a member of the versa, furnishing "justification for mob stepped forward and saturated the charge that lynching is wholly the body with gasoline. It was then an American custom."

only a few minutes until the negro had been reduced to ashes."

THE RECORD BY STATES

Decrease in Lynchings.

	THE DECREASE IN the number of lynchings in recent years is attributed by the author to the courageous campaigning of public-spirited citizens of both races, especially some of the white editors of leading southern newspapers—notably the Columbus, Georgia, Enquirer-Sun, edited by Julian Harris, son of Joel Chandler Harris who, in the face of advertisers' boycotts, loss of subscribers and personal threats, has done splen-		
Total Whites	Negroes		
Gasoline and motor oil were thrown Mississippi	561	44	517

Lynchings - 1929

Northern Press (White).

DISCUSSIONS
did work. Then the Negroes, who "testifying against whites," "suing where intermarriage is forbidden. In considerably outnumber the entire whites," "wrong man lynched" (this sections of Virginia, for one-third population of Canada, have fine is a common reason), "absence of to one-half of the white population newspapers of their own, with crime," and no less than 90 cases are more or less negroid. The United States has a real problem there, that is the "increasing tendency for causes." That is, the mobs themselves calls for subtler methods than lynch-Negroes to defend themselves." Mobs selves did not know why they were ing—if nature does not solve it for are notoriously cowardly; and one doing it.

armed man, determined to sell his Race hatred was stimulated by the Ku Klux Klan just when the war was temperate in saying: "It is un-seemly that any one should be burn-ed at the stake in a modern civilized state." Surely justice is in a pre-carious position when a man, ac-quitted of murder, can be taken im-mediately from the court house and lynched. Surely more than the Negro is suffering harm under a sys-tem that teaches little children to speak of "the fun we had burning the niggers."

SURELY THE LATE PRESIDENT OF YALE
ARMED MAN, DETERMINED TO SELL HIS RACE HATRED WAS STIMULATED BY THE KU KLUX KLAN JUST WHEN THE WAR WAS TEMPERATE IN SAYING: "IT IS UN-SEEMLY THAT ANY ONE SHOULD BE BURN-ED AT THE STAKE IN A MODERN CIVILIZED STATE." SURELY JUSTICE IS IN A PRE-CARIOUS POSITION WHEN A MAN, ACCREDITED OF MURDER, CAN BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY FROM THE COURT HOUSE AND LYNNCHED. SURELY MORE THAN THE NEGRO IS SUFFERING HARM UNDER A SYSTEM THAT TEACHES LITTLE CHILDREN TO SPEAK OF "THE FUN WE HAD BURNING THE NIGGERS."

If Mr. White's facts are startling, his explanations are staggering. "It is little realized that lynching is much more an expression of southern fear of Negro progress than of Negro crime."

Mr. White's method was used "for the purpose of putting down abolitionism." After the Civil War, "to re-enslave the Negro as far as humanly possible."

The increased savagery is attributed to failure to suppress the Negro by peaceful means. H. L. Mencken has said: "Ku Kluxery is the southern poor white's answer to the progress of the emerging Negro, once his equal and now threatening to become his superior."

The fear is of the Negro's present protection of white womanhood."

In Florida some years ago several lynchings and the burn-propensity for sex crimes was un-

of the Negro section of the town heard of before 1830, though they followed the attempt of a Negro had been in the country for more than 200 years. Governor Hugh M.

5-18-29 Dorsey of Georgia goes so far as to tenant farming is peonage. Negroes say: "A frequent cause of lynching are rapidly buying the land, while is attempted protection of their wo-

men by Negroes from unwelcome at-the position of tenant farmers. There are twice as many white ten-

ants as black. Against this, "at the close of the Civil War, Negroes op-

erated 20,000 farms; by 1922 the num-

ber had grown to upwards of 1,000,-

000, of which slightly more than half were owned or were being bought by those who operated them."

Many Negroes are wealthy, many have en-

tered the professions, and some have made names for themselves in the arts.

Fear of the "insecurity of the color line" accounts for much of the trouble; and Mr. White slays yet another fallacy, that of the "ineradicable repulsion between the races."

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ST. CLEMENT'S HIGH SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1929

CRIMINALITY AND MOBS

negro has been arrested or accused of a crime against a white any other animal trait man shares with the savage person. Gruesome stories of burning, hanging, and torturing have been written and told by visitors to the South for generations.

The question of lynching is not a question of like or dislike for the negro. It has never been that, primarily. Race prejudice is a moral problem rather than a legal whole communities will condone their deeds, it is one. The right of any mob to not surprising that individuals will slap and steal, judge and kill a human being suspected of a crime does not exist that lynching parties are composed of potential criminals, that those who are capable of taking the under the Constitution is entitled law into their own hands are capable of the crime to a fair trial in a properly ap-pointed court. A successful lynch-the sooner society regards the lynch as a crime is fatal, and as such it is plain final the sooner it will abolish lynchings.

It is only natural that human beings should be inflamed by the sight or thought of a little girl as-minded person, whatever his or she is. But civilized man no longer uses mob law those of different color, welcome to prove how sensitive he is. Old women are no the decline of lynching as a for-longer burned as witches, and when murderers are ward step in the progress of civil-executed society does not demand that their hearts be torn from the body and the corpse cut in four pieces and publicly exposed. Only a few years lions of our citizens towards the negro, although tremendous things are being done towards its ultimate elimination. No prejudice, however, can be superior to a spirit of square dealing in giving every man or woman, black or white, an equal chance before the law.

How the Lynching Party to Organize Fred Beal Failed

Facts Show That the Police Officials Did Their Best to Co-operate with Lynchers

troops, police and mill owners thugs sworn in as special deputies. Officers Helped Lynchers.

By BILL DUNNE. How did Fred Beal, Southern organizer for the National Textile Workers Union, now charged with murder in Gaston county following the attack on the strikers tent colony by police and deputies on Friday, June 4, escape lynching after his arrest while being brought through South Gastonia Sunday morning, June 9?

This question is asked in Gastonia to come off as per schedule will be and Charlotte by everyone familiar with the murderous frenzy of the middle class elements in Gaston. There is no doubt as to the feelings of the mill owners and their mill workers had dared to defend themselves and strike back after knew that he had nothing to do with weeks of insults, jailings, bayonet-shootings and clubbings at the hands of the rumor was circulated that he personally had shot Aderholt, the

chief of police.

There are witnesses who heard statements made by persons in the crowd that gathered when news of Beal's arrest came in to the effect that "if he comes through here we will take him out and end him."

The procedure of the Gastonia police officers who took Beal from Spartanburg jail merits attention. They were familiar with the plans of the "mill crowd." They knew without doubt that Beal's life was in danger. Yet they secured a car for the trip which could not travel more than thirty miles per hour.

Beal, who was to be placed in the Monroe Jail, was taken through South Gastonia, a journey which necessitated a considerable detour from the direct route between Spartanburg and Monroe.

Stops Conveniently.

When the machine reached South Gastonia, the car was stopped and one of the three police officers went to get an ice cream soda. While he was gone a bunch of armed men—estimated variously as consisting of from six to twelve persons—came up to the car and asked who Beal was. There was loud talking and threats. Beal said nothing. The officers moved off a short distance with the crowd and held a conversation with its leaders. The crowd left.

The officers then took Beal out 25 per cent of the total.

This minority holds the political power. It can organize squads of thugs for punitive expeditions. It can give them official protection—up to a certain point. It can set up such organizations as the "Committee of One Hundred" composed of their hangers on operate in Gastonia, a mill owner's principality, mill and foremen, superintendents, draw certain conclusions.

Why did not the police officers because it has political power this hand Beal over to the would-be executioners? Why did not the armed systematic clubbings and jailings. It squad take Beal from the officers has been able to harass the strikers when all facts point to the conclusion that this was the arrangement?

It seems clear that in between the time the news of Beal's arrest took place, but that it did not

was known in Gastonia, and the time he appeared with his police escort in South Gastonia something went wrong with the program. It is probable, as is generally the case when capitalists and their agents intend to stage a public execution of a worker by extra-legal means in broad daylight, that the original program was for the gathering of a mob of sufficient size to give the proceedings the character of an unrestrainable outburst of popular indignation. That this part of the plan miscarried is evident.

Not Enough Mob.

The champions of the mill owners who composed the armed squad were too few in numbers to make the fiction of a mass demonstration tenable. The police officers doubtless were unwilling to turn Beal over to the mere handful who demanded him. They had expected a mob of a size which would make it possible for them to maintain plausibly that they had been overpowered.

How did the police officers dissuade the assailants from taking the National Textile Workers, by telling them first, that the gangers was too small to make a good show-ing from the popular standpoint and second, by promising them that they would have another and better opportunity.

The trip through the woods on foot would appear to have been in line with such a promise. No ad-vantage was taken of it. Why?

For the reason that the whole program flattered—because the only elements who hate the N. T. W. union and the strikers and Beal to the point where they are willing to commit murder openly are the mill officials and the middle class and professional people clustered around the chamber of commerce and its auxiliary organizations. This is a small minority of the population in the Gastonia district—perhaps 20 to

CONNECT WHITE LANDLORD WITH NEGRO LYNCHING

Threatened Murdered
Tenant Cropper
with Gun

Police Ignore Evidence Reprise Florida Killer of Negro

CHARLOTTE, N. C., July 7.— When gangs of white men break the assertion, although his attitude while police are making strenuous efforts to cover up the traces of the events in order to torture them and Ku Kluckers who lynched and brutally mutilated Willie McDaniel, 23-year-old Negro tenant cropper, facts are leaking out which cast more than a suspicion on Mell Grier, the white farmer owner for whom Mc-

McDaniel was found last Sunday lying face downwards in a patch of woods near here, where he had been dragged after being hung. Indications were that his wrists had been tied, his neck broken by a strong blow and that he had been otherwise mishandled.

Jake F. Newell, who has been engaged as attorney by a number of Negro tenants and friends of the murdered man, has unearthed facts which the police, who give solemn

All the workers of Gastonia may assurances that they are "working not as yet be ready to engage in on the case," are studiously ignorant struggle against the Manville. From Negro neighbors of Jenckes Company and its local government. A large number of them have reached this point. But none in his wagon on Saturday and had of them will fight for the Manville—demanded that Grier pay him for Jenckes Company. None of them some work he had done and pay his wife for blackberries she had picked for Grier. Grier arrogantly refused to pay a cent. After heated words

These are the main reasons why McDaniel started to drive off Fred Beal, southern organizer of Grier ran after him and insulted Beal by force? In all probability by the mill owners and their retainers but loved and respected by the mill workers, is still alive. He is in his house in fear, emerging a moment later with a gun in his hand

STAR
WILMINGTON, DEL.

JUN 2 1929

Is Lynching Chronic?

Just at the time when a Negro candidate, having passed successfully all mental, moral and physical tests, is about to be admitted to the United States Military Academy at West Point, a recurrence of our national disgrace, lynching, in both Florida and Tennessee saddens the thoughtful deeper savagery—always the story of citizens of the country. The peculiar physical cruelty in its effect upon persistence in the United States of those who practice it." The author that pathological state of mind—for cogently quotes the psychologist, Dr. A. A. Brill, upon that perversion of emotions in lynching is only to be explained when one remembers that any mob is an entity different from persons who enjoy torturing living beings. In this book, which is called though made up of human beings, it becomes a maniac monster. Its ac-Judge Lynch," Mr. White has duly tions are unpredictable. It is as un-considered the faint excuse that lynching is resorted to only as a punishment as an escaped lunatic or hunting tiger.

but the evidence does not support the assertion, although his attitude while police are making strenuous efforts to cover up the traces of the events in order to torture them and Ku Kluckers who lynched and brutally mutilated Willie McDaniel, 23-year-old Negro tenant cropper, facts are leaking out which cast more than a suspicion on Mell Grier, the white farmer owner for whom McDaniel was found last Sunday lying face downwards in a patch of woods near here, where he had been dragged after being hung. Indications were that his wrists had been tied, his neck broken by a strong blow and that he had been otherwise mishandled.

Early in its career a lynching mob reaches a point where the innocence of the victim has nothing to do with its actions. The defeat of justice, rather than justice, is concerned. The quest is the satisfaction of a primitive appetite. Like the

flames it kindles, mob hysteria flares up, burns out and abates.

In a splendidly temperate yet solemn book, recently published, Walter White, an author whose blood comes from both races, points out that while lynching does persist, nevertheless, almost every year shows fewer such outrages. From 1890 to 1900 the number was 1,665, but in the following decade it was 921 and in the next seven years 304. With an eye upon these falling figures an American might sigh and reflect that at least the disgrace was waning and that therefore these are better times. But, says Mr. White, against this welcome decrease in numbers is the increasing brutality of the methods used, "often extending to almost unbelievable torture." For after it had been glutted with many lynchings, then mere hanging or shooting no longer satisfied the mob. It craved a fiercer thrill. "As the user of drugs demands increasing quantities of the opiate upon which he relies for excitement, so does the lyncher demand deeper savagery—always the story of physical cruelty in its effect upon those who practice it." The author cogently quotes the psychologist, Dr. A. A. Brill, upon that perversion of the sex urge which often underlies the brutalities of seemingly normal persons who enjoy torturing living beings. In this book, which is called "Rope and Faggot: A Biography of Judge Lynch," Mr. White has duly considered the faint excuse that lynching is resorted to only as a punishment as an escaped lunatic or hunting tiger.

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Lynchings-1929
Discussions.

Read Papers on Forty-Niners and Lynch Law

Wonders of Panama Route Described in Salem Man's Letters from Pacific Coast

Justice on Frontier

Colonial Society Hears Analysis of Claims to Naming of Lynch Law

California in the early days was the subject of papers read yesterday at the December meeting of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, at the home of William C. Endicott, 163 Marlboro street. Philip P. Chase read a paper on "Changing Frisco by Way of Panama in 1850" and Albert Matthews a paper on "Origin of the Term Lynch Law." *12/20/29*

Panama of the seventeenth century, but the "new" city built by the Dons after the buccaneer Morgan had destroyed the old city in his raid of 1670. There were narrow streets, lined in solid blocks by stone houses covered with plaster built around little courtyards; balconies over hanging the sidewalks; green shuttered doors and windows giving access from the balconies to very high-studded bare rooms on the second and third stories of the main streets monopolized by Yankee

Mr. Chase pointed out that the story of the Forty-Niners has been told generally in connection with the overland trek from the Missouri to the Sacramento, but for Americans of the Atlantic coast and for Europeans the way to California was by way of The Horn or the isthmus, by paddle wheel steamer, or sailing ship, rather than locomotive or prairie schooner. By Christmas time, 1849, the news of the gold discoveries had spread throughout the world. The incredulous had been convinced by the sight of actual gold dust and nuggets. During the preceding eighteen months 3,000 passengers had departed from New York by sea for California in 800 ships, much of human freight an extra deck and shipping agents strove to take advantage of the opportunity by putting into commission anything that would float. Every issue of the New York daily papers devoted columns to news from California, editorial comment on the conditions reported, and advertisements of

Almost at once the significance of the isthmus, whether crossed by railroad or pierced by canal, impressed itself on the popular imagination which had not been stirred by the earlier consideration which the problem of transit had received at the hands of diplomats when the only occasion for interest had been Oregon's new fur trade, China, and the Sandwich Islands. Under such circumstances, on Feb. 15 John Batchelder Peirce of Salem sailed from New York with 330 fellow passengers on the paddle wheeler \$100,000 for 500 fares. Through lack of competition on the Pacific side the rate of fare was much higher and the quality of accommodations was much lower than on the Atlantic. The Tennessee carried 500 passengers, who paid altogether the sum of \$100,000 for their passage from Panama to the Golden Gate.

Fortunately, the weather was generally fair and the Pacific lived up to its name. The overloaded ship arrived safely in San Francisco Bay on April 14. Her discontented passengers forgot

WhitePress, (Northern.)

2872

teamer Cherokee bound for Chagres or their grievances against the company
be Isthmus ~~Bata~~ in their haste to reach the diggings and

Mr. Chase read extracts from the letter in greeting the hundreds of friends who besieged the new arrivals for news from home to his wife. They found a fresh home.

and personal description of the conditions of travel on what was then said, "found the new city seething with the quickest and most comfortable life, and the destruction of the great fire had largely removed the Isthmus after nine days' voyage. The new State Government was now in action and ready to assert its authority in all the real hardships in the lack of accommodation to maintain law and order regardless of the relations on shore. Jammed into the few buildings, other than native huts, California would not get word for a month. Of such action California could not have been worse off. The ascent of the later when the results of the Yankees in dug-out canoes gave Webster's March 7 speech in aid of these Yankees their first acquaintance Clay's Compromise assured their new place in the Union and with tropical forests and glimpses of a Commonwealth its

Sights in Panama conflict between the sections for another decade.

At Gorgona, at the head of navigation "To the Salem merchant, however, they left their canoes for mules, toiled chief matter of interest was the state up over the divide and plunged down business, the demands of this mushroom to the Pacific, marveling as they passed capital for general merchandise, especially over the remaining stretches of roadway building materials, clothing, tools paved under the rule of the Spaniards and food. He faced the problem with As they neared the Pacific they saw the confidence, but without extravagant walled city of Panama, not the original hopes. 'My prospect for business looks Panama of the seventeenth century, but as favorable as I had reason to expect the "new" city built by the Dons after California absorbed the pioneer's energy the buccaneer Morgan had destroyed so completely as to exclude the probability "old" city in his raid of 1670. There were problems which had bulked so large in his narrow streets, lined in solid blocks by thoughts at home."

Claimants to Fame

Mr. Matthews's paper on "Origin of the Term Lynch Law," read in part as follows:

"It has been said of more than one person that it was he who had the doubtful honor of bestowing his name on Lynch law, but the claims of only four deserve

consideration—namely, James Lynch, Stephen Lynch, Charles Lynch, and William Lynch.

"Tradition has it that in 1493 James Lynch, then mayor of Galway, Ireland, caused to be executed his own son for alleged murder. This was not a case of lynch law at all.

"In February, 1688, Stephen Lynch was appointed an agent of Sir Robert Holmes who was sole commissioner for suppressing pirates in America, and was ordered to Jamaica, where he stayed about a year. His proceedings there were perhaps arbitrary and ill-advised, but he did not inflict illegal punishments and he never set foot on the soil of the present United States.

"In 1780 Charles Lynch (1736-1796) of Bedford County, Va., illegally fined and imprisoned certain Tories, and it is he who is all but universally regarded as having given his name to lynch law—an opinion in which the present writer does not concur.

"In its original form, the practice of lynch law existed only along the frontiers, and between 1820 and 1830 writers regarded it as on the wane and likely to disappear before advancing civilization; but in the next decade came the anti-slavery agitation, the practice revived and spread throughout the country, the punishments became more and more severe, finally including death, and negroes became the first victims. One result of

This revival was that speculation as to Colonel William Lynch were one and the origin of the term became ripe. In same man; that this William Lynch, who in 1836 it was stated that the originator Ishments for offenses that were criminal of lynch law was a Colonel William not political, was the person from whom Lynch of Pittsylvania County, Va. Poe lynch law derived its name; and that went on to quote an agreement drawn when Mills called him 'John Lynch' he up Sept. 22, 1780, for the suppression of mistook the son John, who in 1826 was a set of lawless men who have banded presumably living in the Lynch house themselves together to deprive honest for the father William, who had died men of their just rights and property, by six years before.

tealing their horses, counterfeiting, and passing paper currency, and committing many other species of villainy." In October, 1811, Andrew Ellicott, who had been appointed by Georgia to determine the boundary between that State and North Carolina, met a "Captain Lynch," who had previously lived in Pittsylvania County, at the latter's house on Oolenoy Creek, at the foot of Table Mountain, in what is now Pickens County, S. C., which was known to his contemporaries as the original home of lynch law thirty-one years before. The name of Charles Lynch was not associated with lynch law until 1842, or forty-six years after his death; while William Lynch during his own lifetime was known to his contemporaries as the originator of lynch law thirty-one years before Charles Lynch was mentioned in connection with it. In short, when the guessers hit on Charles Lynch they picked out the wrong man."

what is now Pickens County, S. C., which Captain Lynch asserted that he was himself the veritable originator of Lynch society. In 1826 Robert Mills wrote that "Dr. James L. Huntington of Boston, Frank Parkman of Cambridge, and Professor John Lynch, the author of the famous law called by his name"; and in the same year Lynch's house, labelled 'Linche's,' was located in Mills's Atlas of the State of South Carolina. In 1844 William G. Simms said that in Pendleton District "lived Captain John Lynch, supposed to have originated the notorious frontier law which still bears his name." Announcement was made of the election of the following new members to the Society: Richard A. Cutter of Cambridge Cliff H. Moore of Cambridge, as resident members; Charles T. Libby of Yarmouth, Me.; Hosea Ballou Morse of Camberley, Eng.; James H. Robinson of New York, and Professor Chauncey B. Tinke of New Haven, as corresponding members, and Dr. L. C. Wroth of Providence R. I., as an associate member.

TELEGRAM
ADRIAN, MICH.

NOV 25 1929

WHY THEY LYNCH

They lynched a man the other day down ~~the~~ Eastland, Texas. That was bad, of course. There is no use trying to find justification for a lynching, for there is none; that is to say it is never the right and proper thing. But there is a lot of use in trying to find the reason and the provocation for lynching because there is always some reason and some provocation. Often the reason is so serious, and the provocation so great, that there is some measure of excuse. Not justification, for the lynching still remains a crime; but a realization that the act was not altogether depraved, devilish, uncivilized and inexcusable.

So let us look at that Texas case Ratliff was the man's name, and he was guilty of robbery and murder. Dressed up as Santa Claus he robbed a bank, and then taking advantage of his disguise he managed to use two little children as a human shield. Two officers were murdered. In Canada Ratliff and his companions would have been

promptly tried and promptly ages of testimony the judges or hanged.

Not so in Texas. Two years had lared that "no error prejudicial to passed and he was still in jail—duly he defendant has intervened in convicted and sentenced to hang his record." The court did find but not hanged—and maybe not go—but Snook's first confession was going to be, for the old "insanity not properly obtained by the off-dodge" was being worked again. Hisers, but Snook confirmed it by a "aged mother" thought her dear boy second confession voluntarily made was off his head, and so there was a newspaper reporters. Even with-going to be a pow-wow of "experts" but any confession at all, the court to try to put him in a nice com-fortable asylum. In the mean while o support the verdict of the jury," one of his fellow murderers had got. In Canada that appeal would free without even the help of ex-ave ended it, but not so in Ohio. experts and lawyers; he had been con-American law just loves criminal victed and sentenced to 99 years im-appeals, and Ohio goes so far as to prisonment, but he commuted his give a convicted murderer two of own sentence to one year by run-them—one to the court of appeals ning away from the prison farm. and then another to the supreme

Last week Monday Ratliff pre-court. So Snook's lawyers went to tended to be paralyzed and won the he supreme court, and last Thurs-sympathy of his keepers at the jail day—with Snook's execution a weel Taking advantage of their credulity ahead—instructed the defense law he shot a deputy sheriff and tried vers to file a motion for a new to break jail. By that time the

community had decided that it had And on top of that, those admir-had enough, so 200 citizens tool able and useful legal gentlemen sa Ratliff from jail and lynched him

Were those men mere bloodthirsty savages, or were they decent citi-zens driven beyond the bounds o calm reason and self restraint by th spectacle of justice being slow; cheated and the solemn majesty o the law turned into asinine tra-vesty?

There are the makings of a lynching nearer home, at Columbus, Ohio. There won't be any lynching, be-cause Columbus is a large city with strong police force, and Ohio people are more self-restrained than Texas people. But the same legal travesty is being played in the case of the notorious and detestable Dr. Snook who murdered a young woman by the name of Theora Hix. It was a sensational and revolting crime, and Snook's guilt was not only patent but self-admitted. Nevertheless everybody knew that he would no be punished for a long time, if ever—and everybody was right.

Snook was duly convicted, after the usual protracted trial filled with all sorts of nonsense. He took an ap-peal, of course. The court of ap-peals affirmed the conviction. It declared the crime was "a most vi-lious and brutal murder, designed and executed by a cool, calculative individual, and no excuse or justifi-cation thereof is to be found in the record." If that did not rightly mark Snook for the chair, we can-not imagine what would.

All kinds of "errors" were trumped up by Snook's lawyers, but after reading every word of the 3,125

UNION-GAZETTE

PORT JERVIS, N. Y.

DEC 3 1929

SUPERFLUOUS LYNCHING

The recent lynching at Eastland, Tex., looks like mob murder at its worst.

If there is ever an excuse for private citizens taking the law into their own hands, it is that such peremptory action is necessary to safeguard society. There was no such excuse in this case. The victim was in prison and sentenced to death. His legal execution was a matter of only a few days. It is true that he had aggravated his crime by shooting his jailer in an attempt to escape. But after that, there was no chance of his cheating justice; he was too well guarded. Yet the mob storm-ed the jail, dragged him through the streets, hanged him naked to a telegraph pole on the main street and left him dangling there.

Justice was done, in a way; but the method suggests blood-lust rather than the dispassionate putting of a human beast out of the way. Apparently the crowd simply made up its mind that it ought to have a lynching party, and went and had one.

The greatest need of democracy is self-control. Eastland today stands disgraced by citizens who professed to be "vindicating the honor of their community."

LANSING MICH. JOURNAL
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1929

Lynchings Are Seen to Arise From Law Delay

Adrian Telegram Cites Recent Cases To Substantiate Its Contention About Legal Failure

THE why of lynchings, President Hoover's effort for the steady-ing of business, Clemenceau the French leader, control of the waters of the Great Lakes, highway safety and football are some of the diversi-fied subjects discussed by Michigan editors in recent days.

The Adrian Telegram calls to attention a recent lynching in Texas which resulted from the law's temporizing and delay, and then cites the stay of execution of Snook, in Ohio. Then the Telegram adds:

"Of course the Ohioans will behave themselves and not try to do any lynching. We doubt if they even

get very indignant, or at all excited.

This legal monkey-business has been

going on so long that they have

come to accept it as a matter of

course, without registering either

indignation or excitement. But

what is going on at Columbus is

precisely what makes disgusted and

infuriated citizens take the law into

their hands in small and remote

communities where the hand of the

law is weak against mobs as well as

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the hand of the law is weak against

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That is why they have no lynching

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was always outspoken. Because of his willingness to speak his mind he made many enemies, political and otherwise. All of them, however, respect his courage and patriotism as well as his undying energy."

The Muskegon Chronicle calls at-tention to the strategical position of those backing the Lakes-to-the-Gulf water ways and express the opinion that that project will win over the St. Lawrence waterway plan unless the Lakes states concede something. It exhorts as follows:

"Is there, here in the great North-west, vision and leadership that can scrap both these moribund organizations and substitute for them a militant body with a reasonable program conceding necessary diversion to the Mississippi project, with compensat-ing works to maintain lake levels, and uniting the middle west in favor o both the St. Lawrence and the Mississipp valley projects? If it cannot be done—and soon—we are going to lose and be made to look foolish —as we shall deserve.

The Grand Rapids Press which consistently battles for greater highwa safety cites how Texas requires a cer-tificate of health, so to speak, fo an automobile before it is accorded license. The Press then adds:

"Michigan has been relying upon private initiative for enforcement o driving laws. We shall need suc initiative even with the adoption o a law requiring an annual test be-fore licensing. It will be necessary to see that cars are kept up to stand ard throughout the year, as well as repaired just before January 1. Bu the state shirks its duty when i leaves all this to safety agencies and fails to require that the swift moving car it send out on the roads with its certificate and license shall be in a safe condition to operate."

The Ann Arbor News, perhaps en-titled to voice the state's feeling mat-ter of football sportsmanship says:

"Purdue has won the Big Ten foot-ball championship, and the news is quite generally satisfactory, we im-age. Michigan and Illinois have passed the title around quite consist-ently in recent years, and it was time for the monopoly to end. Purdue hasn't seemed to amount to much. It's a good school, noted for good sportsmanship and for trying hard, but its prowess hasn't been much re-spected on the gridiron. It's about time Purdue got hold of the title. So it's fine to see her come back, after all those years, and get on the map with a spirit and punch that accom-
plished this."

"How long would Chicago's scan-dalous waste and misgovernment continue if the intelligent resources of the community functioned for the community good — and thereby for their own best profit? How long would the neglected responsibilities of a community like Battle Creek remain neglected, if the same process were applied here, that were applied to the nation's big problem through the White House conferences? How long would there need be moaning over the high rate of taxes and the low return of the public dollar if what has been planned for the increase of national prosperity were worked out through the ordinary relations of the citizen with his gov-ernment?"

The Flint Journal pays the follow-ing tribute to the memory of Georges Clemenceau, war-time premier o France.

"All France, and all the world, has figuratively doffed its hat in hono of the memory of this great man. For as Monsignor de la Valette has said 'the anticlericalism of Clemenceau falls before his greatness. The great service he rendered the fatherland pardons many things.' Clemenceau

NOV 11 1928
The Disease Lies Deep

On we have a murder of the sort w
all "lynching" reported from Florida.

And once more we shall find men and women
in all parts of the United States using this inci-
dental as a theme on which to vent their old tim-
hateds and spites and suspicions and dislikes.

People will shudder in horror at the characte-
of "the South" in general.

Colored agitators will denounce "race hatred."

Some whites will glorify the fact that "one
more nigger has been killed." Others will re-
joice that clean manhood has shown its instinctive
horror against attacks on women.

None of which ideas relate to the evil in Florida.
Race hatred are facts which mere denunciation
does not end.

Irregular justice is an evil, no matter what the
excuse for it, in times of social disorder.

Justice and mercy are human rights, no matter
what the race or color concerned.

The evil in Florida is far different.

The disgrace there is the disgrace of having
men in government in whom the people lack
confidence.

The people there who lack confidence in the
processes of justice are to be pitied, as well as
blamed. This lynching is a mere incident, in the
procedure of a state and local administration
which, whether corrupt or not, weak or not, abso-
lutely does lack the confidence of the people in
the due handling of their affairs. If they lynch
it is because they have failed in their own democ-
racy. They lack officials that respond to the
sense of justice of the people.

CUPS STOP ANTI- LYNCHING MEET

200 Negroes Come to Communist Protest

CHESTER, Pa., Dec. 24—The
police of Chester, in an effort to
prevent the Communist Party from
carrying on organization work
among the Negroes broke up a mass
meeting called last night at Ben
Theatre. Under the clumsy pretext
of not having any permit, they
drove away 200 Negro workers
together with several white workers
at 7:30 p. m. before the meeting

could be opened.

The meeting was called to protest
against the lynching spirit stirred
up by the editorials and articles of
the "Chester Times," and threats
against a Negro worker that unless
he moves out of the "lily white"
section of Seventh and Jeffrey Sts.
he will be lynched. *2/25/29*

This was for the first time that
Chief Vance refused to grant a per-
mit to the Communist Party as a
result of the intensive campaign
carried on among the workers of
the Sun Ship Yard, Viscose and
other large plants besides the suc-
cess of the Communist Party among
the Negro workers.

Instead of being terrorized by the
uniformed thugs, many workers
came down to the Party Headquar-
ters, at 120 West Third St., where
there was a successful meeting held.
The speakers at the meeting were
E. Gardos, D. O., of the Communist
Party; Wilbur Upshaw, Negro long-
shoreman, member of the National
Executive Board of the T.U.U.L.;
George Carter, one of the Gastonia
defendants, sentenced to 20 years,
with Comrade Wolford, of the Ches-
ter Unit of the Communist Party
acting as chairman.

This very successful meeting re-
sulted in applications for the Com-
munist Party and three for the
Young Communist League, all Ne-

gro workers, not speaking of a
number of contacts made among the
Negro workers and the many copies
of the Liberator and the pamphlet
"Why Every Worker Should Join
the Communist Party." *MONDAY NOVEMBER 21 1949*

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Adrian Mich. Tel.
Mon. Nov. 25 - 1945

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They lynched man nearer home, at Columbus, Ohio Heaven only knows what kind of
Heaven only knows what kind of
flimsy grounds they can invent to
take it there, and anybody knows
that there isn't a chance in a mil-
lion that the federal court will find
any reason for interfering in an or-
ganization case; it never does. But
nothing can prevent the lawyers
from going to Washington, with all
the name of Theora Hix. It was a
sensational and revolting crime, and no matter how frivolous their
Snook's guilt was not only patent grounds may be.

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All kinds of "errors" were trumped
up by Snook's lawyers, but after
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pages of testimony the judges of
the court of appeal unanimously de-
clared that "no error prejudicial to
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was off his head, and so there was that Snook's first confession was
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cials, but Snook confirmed it by a
try to put him in a nice com-
fortable asylum. In the mean while second confession voluntarily made
one of his fellow murderers had got to newspaper reporters. Even with-
out any confession at all, the court
held that the record was "sufficient
to support the verdict of the jury."

In Canada that appeal would
have ended it, but not so in Ohio.
American law just loves criminal
appeals, and Ohio goes so far as to

give a convicted murderer two of
them—one to the court of appeals,
and then another to the supreme
court. So Snook's lawyers went to
the supreme court, and last Thurs-
day—with Snook's execution a week
ahead— instructed the defense law-
yers to file a motion for a new

Ratliff from jail and lynched him

Last week Monday Ratliff pre-
ended to be paralyzed and won the
sympathy of his keepers at the jail
Taking advantage of their credulity
he shot a deputy sheriff and tried
to break jail. By that time the
community had decided that it had
had enough, so 200 citizens took

Ratliff from jail and lynched him

Were those men mere bloodthirsty
savages, or were they decent citi-
zens driven beyond the bounds of
calm reason and self restraint by the
spectacle of justice being slowly
cheated and the solemn majesty of

the law turned into asinine tra-
vesty?

Lynchings-1929
Discussions.

White Press, (Northern.)

2874

Carpenter Helped Hush Up Lynching in North Carolina

Daily Worker
A statement issued by the National Office of the International Labor Defense shows how Solicitor Carpenter, of Gastonia, N. C., and attorney Jake Newell helped hush up the lynching of Willie McDaniels, a Negro farm worker, near Charlotte on the night of June 29, 1929.

The statement of the I.L.D. follows:

1228-21
Lynch law is the greatest means by which the white capitalists keep the Negro masses down. It is also used against white workers, industrial and agricultural, as shown by recent events (lynching and burning of white boys in Texas, Arkansas, etc., mobs and bosses' murders in Gastonia and Marion). The bosses will attempt to use it increasingly against white and Negro workers unless the united strength of the Negro and white workers puts a stop to it! It also is one of the means by which the Negro and white workers are kept divided. The relentless struggle against lynchings and race oppression is a major part of the struggle of the International Labor Defense in the South.

As part of the fight against lynch law in the South, the I.L.D. calls the attention of all workers, black and white, and all friends of the labor movement, to the infamous lynching of Willie McDaniels, Negro farm worker near Charlotte, on the night of June 29, 1929,

Willie McDaniels was lynched, the I.L.D. is firmly convinced by the evidence which it has accumulated and which the county authorities have suppressed, by a mob of rich exploiting farmers, led by Willie McDaniels' boss, Mell Grier. The lynching report spread about the city, and the county "authorities" in an attempt to hush up the crime planned a nice investigation under the leadership of Attorney Jake Newell and Solicitor Carpenter. A back and who organize the workers majority of the Negro tenants who were living on the Grier farm at the time of the lynching were arrested and held in Charlotte jail under the guise of "giving them protection." Negro witnesses of the crime were threatened with death. The lynchers were not punished.

bosses. Organize into powerful industrial unions that take in all workers, black and white alike! Build United Committees Against Lynching, made of black and white workers and poor farmers! Down with lynching and lynch law! Build the International Defense!

Lynchings - 1929

Discussions
NEW YORK TIMES
JAN 11 1929
PROTEST NEGRO LYNCHING.

1,000 Hear Call for Inter-Racial Defense Committees.

A mass meeting in protest of the recent lynchings of two negroes in Mississippi was held last night in St. Luke's Hall, 129 West 130th Street, under the auspices of the American Negro Labor Congress. Nearly 1,000 persons crowded the auditorium.

An appeal for the formation of inter-racial defense committees, composed of "every thinking negro, every enlightened worker and every true lover of liberty, white or black," was made by Richard B. Moore, national organizer of the congress.

"We must unite to demand the abolition of lynching and terrorism," he said. "Organization is needed to protect and defend ourselves."

Mr. Moore said there would be meetings throughout the country to show the "menace of unprovoked and wanton brutality and terrorism now directed against the negroes on every hand." Other speakers at the meeting included: Edward Welsh; Robert Minor, editor of The Daily Worker; Karl Reeves, editor of Labor Defender, and William J. Burroughs.

FREE PRESS
DETROIT, MICH.

JAN 3 1929

LIQUOR AND LYNCHING.

Governor Theodore G. Bilbo, who once threatened to use the National Guard to clean up the liquor situation in Mississippi, says that he has neither the time nor the money "to investigate 2,000 people." The most favorable construction to put on this brusque retort to appeals that he investigate the lynching of Charley Shepherd on New Year's eve is that Governor Bilbo thinks that the prosecuting attorney of the county in which the incident took place is the proper official to act. Wherein he would be correct. The chief executive of a state is not expected to interfere to uphold the law until the officials specifically entrusted with that duty fail to perform it. Then, if he does not act, he exposes himself to the charge of nonfeasance of authority in connection with the constitution and laws he is sworn to defend and enforce.

Apparently Governor Bilbo believes he has sufficient time and money to suppress bootlegging in his state, an industry that probably engages the interest of more than 2,000 people. Would it not look well for Mississippi, which accounted for four of last year's ten lynchings in the United States, if part of this time and money were devoted to suppressing lynch law? Whatever its intent, man.

Governor Bilbo's statement, unfortunately, will be widely taken in his part of the country as meaning that peddling booze is a more heinous offense than burning human beings at the stake.

*Jeffersonian
Cambridge, O*

MAR 28 1929

OUSTING JUDGE LYNCH

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During 1928 there were 43 states in which no lynchings took place — the highest number since statistics of this kind were tabulated, and, without doubt, the highest number in the history of the country. The number of victims of the mob in other states—eleven—was also the lowest in history.

Lynch law is slowly dying out. The combination of enlightened public opinion and courageous officers of the law is cutting it down, year by year. It is not too much to hope that in the near future a lynching will be almost unknown throughout the United States.

*Washington, Pa.
Observer*

APR 8 1929

THE DECLINE OF LYNCHING

Forty-three of the 48 states were free from lynching in 1928, says the eighth annual report of the commission on race relations of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America.

This is in comparison with 41 lynchless states in 1927, 38 in 1926, and 38 in 1925.

That report indicates progress in the struggle to make law and order supreme, and to suppress the tendency to mob violence.

Lynch-law never aided anyone. The 11 lynchings in five states of 1928 remain a blot upon America's democracy which must be erased.

The constitution guarantees justice to every man. When a suspected criminal is lynched he is denied that justice. All too often, it is discovered later that the mob wrath has been vented upon the wrong

Public opinion frowns upon lynchings. That opinion should be focus-

White Press, (Northern)

ed upon those states where lynching persists, to encourage law-abiding citizens and public officials in their efforts to stamp out this evil. Until America is a lynchless land, it cannot meet the eyes of the world without shame.

PRESS-CITIZEN
IOWA CITY, IA.

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*Tribune Republican
Meadville, Pa.*

*Dubuque
Iowa*

MAR 7 1929

**SENTIMENT CHANGED ON
LYNCHING.**

Those inclined to despair of human progress and to be skeptical about the stamping out of evils long considered to be baffling—such as the liquor traffic, for example—might consider the situation with respect to mob violence in America. If a band of men elected to take the law in their own hands and go out, string up or riddle with bullets, or burn at the stake, some person who might

or might not be the real offender sought; if a community were secretly or openly in sympathy with the act of the men; if every person who had any information as to the identity of any one of them absolutely refused to utter a word about it, and if the law enforcement authorities themselves were indifferent, what could be done about it? Nothing, it was admitted. And nothing it was, for decades, to the disgrace of the country.

Yet something eventually was done, and the results now are becoming apparent. Mob violence in its most aggravated form, lynching, has been on the decline in the United States for years. Last year there were only nine lynchings, compared with about twenty times that number 40 years ago and an even larger number for several years around 1890.

The change came when communities and States began to see the danger to the safety of society as a whole when the law was not allowed to take its course in any case. For the spirit of mob violence did not relate to a single type of offense or offender, and lawlessness, allowed easy headway, could not readily be checked. Any person who had incurred the disfavor of a group might become the victim of a mob or a small

band of men.

Public sentiment, aided by judges, governors and other officials, demanded a change. Members of a mob no longer were assured of immunity from arrest, prosecution and conviction. So mob violence is being stamped out and in a few years virtually may be eliminated in America.

Ousting Judge Lynch.

Encouraging progress in the work of wiping out lynching in the United States is reported in a bulletin from the commission of church and race relations of the Federal Council of Churches.

During 1928 there were 43 states in which no lynchings took place, the highest number since statistics of this kind were tabulated, and, without doubt, the highest number in the history of the country. The number of victims of mob violence in other states, 11, was also the lowest in history.

Lynch law is slowly dying out. The combination of enlightened public opinion and courageous officers of the law is cutting it down year by year. It is not too much to hope that in the near future a lynching will be almost unknown throughout the United States.

2875

APR 1 - 1929

OUSTING JUDGE LYNCH

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Lynch law is slowly dying out. The combination of enlightened public opinion and courageous officers of the law is cutting it down, year by year.

It is not too much to hope that in the near future lynchings will be non-existent in the United States.

TRIBUNE
KOKOMO, IND.

FEB 15 1929

MOBS VERSUS COURAGE.

Whenever a mob takes a prisoner from an officer of the law and holds a lynching, the officers who should have saved the prisoner always reports that his forces were outnumbered that resistance would have been useless.

It is interesting, accordingly, to see what happens in such a situation when the law officer is a man of real courage.

A big mob surrounded the jail at Riverside, Calif., the other day where Gordon Northcott, convicted of three murders, is confined, and tried to get him out. Sheriff Cleo Sweeters met them with this remark:

"I know we are outnumbered fifty to one, but you can't get Northcott only over our dead bodies. The same law that demands that we safeguard this prisoner will take him later. Bloodshed now will be foolish."

The mob dispersed. A really brave officer does not lose his prisoner.

Alfred
FALL RIVER

MASSACHUSETTS

APR 2 - 1929

FEWER LYNCHINGS.

The Federal Council of Churches, which has a department on race relations, is encouraged by the statistics relating to lynchings to believe that the practice is on the decline in the United States. Of the 11 recorded cases last year five were in Mississippi, two each in Texas and Louisiana, one each in Missouri and New Mexico. In 43 states there were no lynchings during 1928, which is an increase of two states over the year before and of five over

each of the two preceding years. Lynchings were prevented in 24 instances during last year, 21 in southern states and three in northern states.

The weight of public opinion against summary execution without trial by the courts is undoubtedly responsible for the decrease. Where it may not have inspired restraint in turbulent mobs it has strengthened the hands of the officers of the law in preventing the carrying out of purposes of violence against prisoners in their charge. This is apparent in the success in preventing the evil designs of men stirred to immediate vengeance upon accused persons and shows a strengthening of local sentiment against such outrage upon justice.

Lynchings anywhere no longer are regarded with indifference. The expression of popular disapproval whenever one occurs is general, and marks the advance which has been made in arousing public attention to such crimes. Whereas a generation ago a state might look with indifference upon the effect upon its reputation which a lynching might have, that indifference has disappeared and in its place there is a determined effort on the part of authorities generally to prevent such a stain upon the record as outbreaks of violence are certain to be regarded by the nation at large. The figures for last year show that the end of the practice has not been reached, but they also strengthen the hope that it may be approaching.

IOWAN
IOWA CITY, IA.

APR 19 1929

Civilization Goes Forward

JUDGE LYNCH is slowly dying out.

Encouraging progress in the matter of wiping out lynchings in the United States is reported in a bulletin from the commission on church and race relations of the Federal Council of Churches.

Forty-three states went through 1928 without a single lynching, the highest number since statistics of the kind were published, while the number of victims of the mob in other states numbered but 11, also the lowest in history.

Year by year, the combination of enlightened public opinion and courageous officers behind the written law is cutting out mob rule. It is not too much to hope that lynchings, in a few years, will be practically unknown in the United States.

KANSAN
KANSAS CITY, KANS.

MAR 31 1929

Lynch Law Dying Out

Encouraging progress in the work of wiping out lynching in the United States is reported in a bulletin from the commission on church and race relations of the Federal Council of Churches.

During 1928 there were forty-three states in which no lynchings took place—the highest number since statistics of this kind were tabulated, and, without doubt, the highest number in the history of the country. The number of victims of the mob in other states—eleven—was also the lowest in history.

Lynch law is slowly dying out. The combination of enlightened public opinion and courageous officers of the law is cutting it down, year by year. It is not too much to hope that in the near future a lynching will be unknown throughout the United States.

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

Star

APR 4 - 1929

LYNCH LAW LOSING.

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Lynchings-1929

Discussions.

The Murder of Negro Workers

Daily Worker

One of the most cold-blooded acts of white ruling-class terrorism against the Negro workers was perpetrated a few days ago at Marion, Arkansas, as reported in the Daily Worker of Tuesday.

Two Negro farm workers, William James and T. B. Robertson, protesting against the particularly brutal and intensive exploitation to which Negro farm workers and tenant farmers are subjected in the South, and demanding of a white plantation owner that he live up to his promises and pay the wages due them, were framed up by the law—the law which operates against Negro workers in the South even as it operates against the workers of the North, only more openly and cynically. For no other reason than that the wife of the white plantation owner projected herself into the argument over the unpaid wages of these slaves, James and Robertson were arrested on a charge of "attacking a white woman," the charge carrying the insinuation of intention of rape.

The white planters of the district knew that these men would get heavy jail sentences in spite of the fact—or rather because of the fact that their "offense" was simply and solely a demand to be paid their wages. The white planters knew that their courts would see to that. That is what their courts are for. But even the prospect of stiff jail sentences for two innocent men failed to satisfy the white planters. They desired some more graphic means of demonstrating their power, some more terrifying and brutal way of intimidating the Negro farm workers. Any display of manhood, any appearance of a spirit of revolt among their Negro victims, must be ruthlessly crushed. So they "took away" the two Negro workers from the officers of the law (who, as always, were most obliging) and proceeded to have a typical Southern ruling-class holiday, forcing their victims to run the gauntlet of revolver and shotgun fire, the while they registered their fiendish glee "with cheers and shouts of laughter."

It is not always that the class basis of white terrorism against the Negro workers is as clearly brought out as in this instance. That it is always there, however, is certain. The Negro is made the object of race discrimination and race hatred and the victim of organized mob attacks because the capitalist class finds it profitable to maintain the caste system, which deprives an entire race of even the fake "rights" with which the white workers are deluded.

Keeping the Negro as a slave class at the bottom of capitalist society not only enables the capitalist class to coin super profits out of the blood and suffering of Negro workers, but because a caste system, with its base of race hatred and prejudice, militates against the essential unity of the working class, the subjugation of the Negro workers helps the exploiters to stifle every serious movement of workers. The system makes it possible for employers to utilize Negroes as scabs against white workers on strike for better conditions,

as it also makes possible the use of white workers as scabs against Negroes on strike against intolerable conditions.

The answer to these tactics of the capitalist class is working class solidarity—the unity of all workers, black and white, against the common class oppressor. The answer to white ruling class terrorism against the Negro workers is the organization of inter-racial defense bodies which, in supporting the Negro in his right to self-defense, will greet with arms in hand the attacks upon his life and person. Only by meeting force with force, can the murder of Negro workers be stopped. Only by fighting side by side with the Negro worker against the onslaughts of the white ruling class, can the white worker protect himself against the same terror which, directed today against the Negro worker, will be directed against the white worker tomorrow, unless the white worker joins hands now with the Negro worker to crush this terror. We are not among those so-called "friends of the Negro" who argue that the reason for the organization of the Negroes is "to keep them from scabbing against the white workers." We do not propose to organize the Negro merely for the benefit of the white worker. That sort of

diluted white chauvinism can be left to the socialist party fakers and the so-called "progressive" apologists for the A. F. of L. bureaucrats. We propose to organize the Negro masses for the strengthening of the working class cause as a whole, and for the emancipation of the Negro masses themselves in the first place. For the Communist Party stands for the unity of the working class, but everywhere and always for the most exploited section of the proletariat first of all. The most dangerous poison to be found in the working class is the ideology of the "labor aristocracy" which wishes to keep the relatively favored few of skilled workers separated from and disloyal to the great mass of the working class and especially separated from the Negro workers.

White workers and Negro workers alike have one enemy. That enemy is the capitalist class. The class which exploits them and oppresses them that the few may live in riotous luxury at the expense of the many. Against that enemy we must all unite. Against that enemy the united workers of all lands, black, white, brown and yellow, must wage a ceaseless and relentless struggle—for the overthrow of capitalism, for the establishment of workers and peasants governments.

Kentucky Court of Appeals affirms verdict of criminal libel against William Warley, Negro editor of the Louisville Leader, who wrote that a fair trial to two Negroes was impossible with a mob outside the court-house and militiamen escorting jurors to and from the premises.

*Vindictive
Youngstown O.*

MAR 26 1929

Decline in Lynching

Last year there were ten lynchings in the United States, four in Mississippi, two in Louisiana and Texas, and one each in Missouri and New Mexico. Georgia for once had a clean record. The number last year was 11 less than in the preceding year and 24 less than in 1926. A steady decline is thus shown, which appears the more remarkable when it is recalled how frequently mobs did their work 40 years ago when in a single year nearly 200 persons were put to death without trial.

In the light of what has been going on during the last few years of the crime wave it cannot be assumed that the decline in lynching is due to fewer offenses which in earlier years caused outbreaks of mob violence. The South has long offended by resorting to lynch law, but it has not welcomed discussion of national legislation against lynching. That may have had something to do with reducing the number of lynchings. Cases are reported in which angry groups of people who might take the law into their own hands have been quieted by the argument that such action would aid the proponents of national action, such as provided in the Dyer bill. The South, furthermore, has begun a development program and is making a strong bid for northern people to go there to live. Northerners' good opinion is desirable and to be had by improved conditions, one of which is seen in the decline of lynching, although there is no ground for even one lynching in a year.

SUN
VINCENNES, IND.

FEB 18 1929

Whenever a mob takes a prisoner from an officer of the law and holds a lynching, the officer who should have saved the prisoner always reports that his forces were so outnumbered that resistance would have been useless.

It is interesting, accordingly, to see what happens in such a situation when the law officer is a man of real courage.

A big mob surrounded the jail at Riverside, Calif., the other day where Gordon Northcott, convicted of three murders, is confined, and tried to get him out. Sheriff Clem Sweeters met them with this remark:

"I know we are outnumbered fifty to one,

but you can get Northcott only over our dead bodies. The same law that demands that we safeguard this prisoner will take his life later. Bloodshed now will be foolish."

The mob dispersed. A really brave officer does not lose his prisoner.

NEWS-TIMES
SOUTH BEND, IND.

FEB 16 1929

MOBS VERSUS COURAGE

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SOUTH BEND, IND.

News

APR 15 1929

FEWER LYNCHINGS

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Lynch law is slowly dying out. The combination of enlightened public opinion and courageous officers of the law is cutting it down, year by year. It is not too much to hope that in the near future a lynching will be almost unknown throughout the United States.

UNION

Springfield, Mass.

JAN 11 1929

LYNCHING IN JUGOSLAVIA

Arrest of 500 Persons Noted as Example for Mississippi.

To the Editor of The Union.

Sir: Editorially, The Union strongly and most properly condemned the lynching of a Negro in Mississippi on Dec. 31, and criticized the attitude of the Governor of that State, who an-

nounced that it had neither the money nor the time to conduct an investigation of the outrage. The Union at the same time commented on the Governor's previous statement in regard to prohibition enforcement and his promise to take steps necessary to make his State bone dry.

In view of this callous contempt in Mississippi for the law of the State and of the civilized world against trial and execution by the mob, it is interesting to read a dispatch from Jugoslavia, which we have become accustomed to regard as a turbulent and somewhat lawless country. In The Union I read a dispatch from Spalato, Dalmatia, which states that 50 per cent of the population of the town of Drinis have been arrested and charged with murder, in consequence of 1000 men, women and children waylaying and stoning to death the unpopular burgomaster, Bojo Adjanic, whose body was found by the police next day.

If a small town in Jugoslavia can arrest half the population for a lynching, it surely should be possible for the powerful State of Mississippi to arrest sufficient people to sift out from among them the slayers of a Negro under particularly brutal circumstances.

Further evidence of the progressiveness of Jugoslavia is afforded by the report that, wearied by conditions caused by party strife among people and parliament, King Alexander has declared himself ruler of his 14,000,000 subjects—Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, who make up the population of Jugoslavia—setting up a temporary dictatorship.

It is true, probably, that neither the kingdom nor the municipalities of Jugoslavia are distracted from all other other problems of law and government by the perplexities of an abortive prohibition enactment; but it would seem probable that were they so beset they would find the time and the money to deal with the situation more effectively than it has been dealt with in any part of the United States—and that without neglecting lynchings by mobs or filibusters by legislators.

TEMPERANCE.

Springfield, Jan. 10, 1929.

ARGUS-LEADER
SIOUX FALLS, S. D.

APR 1 1929

Some objection is being voiced to the proposal to stage a real Mexican bull fight at the rodeo in Belle Fourche this summer. The Garretson News says that bullfighting is "cruel beyond anything in the line of cruelty which has yet been conceived by the promoters of rodeos." A reader of the Argus-Leader asserts that "real cowboys do not torture cattle for sport; their cruelties are mostly inevitable in the day's work. I suppose there will always be a certain element so coarse and insensitive that only such horrors as beast baitings and negro burnings can thrill them." This is one side of the question. On the other side are

those who contend that many of our daily sports, such as fishing and hunting, produce cruelty in a similar degree. One bull, they say, may suffice for the enjoyment of 10,000 persons while five pheasants may be painfully injured for the benefit of one person. The subject opens innumerable angles, one of which is that pain is not a matter of size. A fly can suffer as much as an elephant.

EXPRESS
DUBOIS, PA.

**Punishment of Negro Community
for Crime of an Individual Is
Called Heartless.**

By JULIAN HARRIS.
Editorial Correspondence of THE NEW YORK TIMES.

COLUMBUS, Ga., July 25.—A veritable overflow of happiness in the South and in other sections a bulging sheaf of incidents which have found echoes in editorial comment in Dixie make it difficult to select topics which can be covered in a column.

The most significant occurrence in the South was the successful determination of the State of Alabama to prevent the lynching of a negro who had murdered a young white man, and shot and assaulted a young woman who was with the slain man. In addition to preventing the lynching, Governor Graves of Alabama thought Lester Bonyer, the negro, should have a fair trial. The Governor, who had asserted that "there will not be a lynching if I can prevent it," called out the National Guard and provided ample protection to the prisoner.

The trial lasted three hours, and the murderer, who had committed a statutory offense in addition to wounding the young woman, was sentenced to be electrocuted on Aug. 23.

* * *
Side-Lights on the Action.

In ordinary circumstances there might be little to say except that Alabama had done its duty. But it must be remembered that Bonyer's terrible double crime was committed at about the time that the whites of North Platte, Neb., had driven all negroes out of their community, even after the slayer of a policeman had committed suicide to prevent himself from being burned alive; and even the State of Maryland had recently been the scene of race riots.

It is true that in the South the vengeance of a mob is not transferred to the negroes of the community, even in the case of criminal assault—a state of mind which is worth considering. Here in the South I have talked to men who in the past would not have hesitated in lynching a criminal, but who regard with abhorrence the thought of punishing innocent victims.

* * *
South's Attitude Changed.

So readers of this column may well imagine how the Nebraskans who maltreated the negro community were castigated in the South for their heartlessness. Unquestionably the South has changed vitally its viewpoint with reference to lynchings. And it is not a change which has been the result of harsh adverse criticism. The vast majority of Southerners have simply realized that lynchings are more harmful to the lynchers than to the victim, that the law is lynched along with the negro, and while the latter is dead, the spirit of lawlessness is aroused and lives in those who participate in or condone the brutality, coward-

ice and injustice of illegal executions.

Interesting also is the fact that while Nebraskans were maltreating the negroes of North Platte the eighteenth annual ex-slave reunion was getting under way in Birmingham, Ala. This convention was sponsored by the community chest of Birmingham. In addition to several hundred former slaves, there were also present many whites from Alabama and other Southern States. It is said that the ages of the former slaves present ranged from 90 to 118 years.

APR 25 1929
OUSTING JUDGE LYNCH.

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NEW YORK TIMES

JUL 28 1929

**SENTIMENT IN SOUTH
AGAINST LYNCHINGS**

Recent Action in Alabama Is
Regarded as an Indication of
a New Trend of Thought.

NEBRASKA ATTITUDE SCORED

LYNCH LAW IN FORCE SAYS THE

Communist Paper Prints Glaring Stories Of Mob

Daily Worker Says Funeral Orators Incited Mob To Lynch—Declares Striking Workers Are Starving.

"Lynch law is in full force against the defendants in the shooting of Chief of Police Aderholt," according to The Daily Worker of Tuesday. Under the heading, "Gastonia Strikers Prepare to Fight Lynchings," the communist paper declares that the mills, business interests and newspapers are trying to incite mobs to lynch Beal and others held in jail.

"Hundreds of mill workers from other towns are flocking to Gastonia to the aid of the strikers," says The Daily Worker.

The Daily Worker also declares that the tent colony has been destroyed and that hundreds of workers are starving and homeless.

The truth of the matter is that they are being cared for by the Salvation Army. Following is the account in The Daily Worker:

"Lynch law, the traditional around Gastonia stopped the can weapon against the negro masses, in which City Councilman Robert was today in full force against the Craig and Policemen H. C. Jackson and Thomas Rankin were carried off by a mob of twelve patrolling the road to a jail in North Carolina from Spartanburg, S. C., where they were arrested and charged with complicity in the murder of Aderholt." The mob demanded the prisoners, and the police claim that they refused to give them up. It is stated here by others agitating for the killing of Beal and other strike leaders that a mistake was made in various jails scattered about their sending such a small crowd, as state are not out of danger of the armed lynchers, and were controlled by the mill owners is open such a small force.

"The 65 strikers who are held in various jails scattered about their sending such a small crowd, as state are not out of danger of the armed lynchers, and were controlled by the mill owners is open such a small force. The situation is very tense; The Gastonia Gazette is calling for the electric chair for all those who are strike and relief leaders. The first to be 'taught North Carolina justice' for today, has now been reported postponed, and may take place in preparation which will absolutely destroy every tent and run the families out of town."

Thursday. Meanwhile they are held incomunicado.

The city authorities, having starved the Loray strikers for three days by seizing all relief supplies and jailing all relief workers is now planning to offer them food on condition that they "behave, and thus to split them away from the National Textile Workers Union, the strike and the Workers International Relief.

"Two forces are actively at work here. On the one hand the mill owners and their subservient city government is continuing its policy of terrorism. The shooting at the funeral of Chief Aderholt created excitement, and distracted the mill boss agents from their real intention at that funeral which was to whip up a frenzy for lynching among the great crowd gathered at the First Baptist church.

"But while orators and whisperers were working up a mob against the strikers who shot our police chief, the action of excited deputy sheriffs in pumping lead into Deputy George Moore, while all were firing a general and reckless fusillade of shots at a fleeing striker, was the case years ago at Ludlow, Colorado.

"As it was, although many strikers were arrested and some were

accident might have happened to the four deputies and the chief shot

Friday.

"The tent colony is still in the hands of the police, and a lynch mob of twelve patrolling the road

of Gastonia are demanding that white workers be lynched.

"Otto Hall, negro organizer for the National Textile Workers Union, spoke at Gastonia just before the shooting and then addressed the strikers. Alfred Wagenknecht, executive secretary of the Workers International Relief, who arrived here yesterday from New York, stated his way back sympathizers from today that the authority of the Gastonia stopped him and warned him of lynch mobs seeking his life. Hall escaped and the entire incident opens the eyes of Southern workers to a new situation. White workers who have been incited into race wars and race murder, find that the employers who whipped them on are now calling for the death of white and negro workers alike, and rally against the menace as sensible men would, by protecting their negro fellow-workers against the common enemy.

"The tent colony, which inspection showed later, was wrecked in an even more wanton and destructive fashion than was at first indicated, is still inhabited by hundreds of strikers' families, living among their shattered furniture and trying to use their torn and

bullet pierced cooking utensils. On the other hand, all the James P. Reid, national president of militant labor are rally dent of the National Textile Workers Union, is expected here today to organize the strike relief, to re coming down from the union head-build the tent colony, to continu quarters in New York to take per-picketing and win the strike. The son charge of the organization Gastonia strikers must now build work. Their Workers Defense Corps to "The mass demonstrations before defend themselves against the Friday raid have already drawn many of the textile workers out of lynchings being prepared.

"Hundreds of workers from sur rounding towns are flocking to inside state that a mass insurrec-Gaston to protect the strikers. These work-All workers agree that if it had no ers are new to labor struggles, and been for the determined resistanc many of them did not realize that of the Workers Guard at the ten they were working to the injury of colony, their alertness in stopping their fellow-workers outside. The every attempt of the mill owners attempt at mass murder, and the secret agents to poison the camcruel attempts at lynching and water supply, their announced will frame-up of men they know and ingness to shoot to pieces any respect, has awakened many of masked mobs which might be or them. They are ready to join the ganized to destroy the strike head-strike in large numbers.

quarters, as the first headquarters "Attorneys for the International and relief offices were destroyed. Labor Defense, whose national sec-tors would not have been a policeretary, Juliet Stuart Poyntz, arriv-raid; but the lynchers would have yesterday, are demanding that done the job probably with terrifi-the strikers and relief workers be released on bail, and are attempting by habeas corpus proceedings to force the judges to pass on the 65 workers, who are held on no evidence whatever, and so far or only very informal charges of murder and 'inciting to murder.'

"A nation-wide appeal is being issued immediately by the I. L. D. to rally all labor back of this de-fense and stop what seems to be a combination of the Centralia (Washington), Wheatland (California) hop fields, and Ludlow (Colorado) massacre frame-up

"Alfred Wagenknecht, executive secretary of the Workers Interna-tional Relief, who arrived here yesterday from New York, stated his way back sympathizers from today that the authority of the Gastonia stopped him and warned him of lynch mobs seeking his life. Hall escaped and the entire incident opens the eyes of Southern workers to a new situation. White workers who have been incited into race wars and race murder, find that the employers who whipped them on are now calling for the death of white and negro workers alike, and rally against the menace as sensible men would, by protecting their negro fellow-workers against the common enemy.

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friends of the labor movement who want to defeat the master frame-up plans of the bosses and their allies in public office, al' those who want the strike to continue until it is won will send funds at once to the national office of the Workers International Relief, 1 Union Square, New York City.'

Wagenknecht stated that as a result of the arrest of all W. I. R. representatives no food has been distributed for the last three days. The strikers have been going around hungry. The food in the tent colony was destroyed by the police and deputy sheriffs. The destitute strikers are in a desperate condition as a result of the starvation that is facing them. The arrest of Caroline Drew and Amy Schechter, W. I. R. representatives here, was part of the Manville-Jenckes Co. plot to break the strike by mass terrorism and starvation. It is now becoming clear that the police attack on the tent colony Friday night was well planned. After the workers were shot at beaten, some of the tents destroyed and strikers, their wives and children thrown into the road, the next move would be to stop the food supply. The arrest of Drew and Schechter and the other W. I. R. relief committee workers confirms this."

The Rule of the Mob.

Two years ago, Christmas Eve, in the town of Eastland, Texas, was disturbed by a tragedy that began with the robbing of a bank. A group of bandits, one of whom was wearing a Santa Claus attire, entered the bank and robbed it. The cashier was wounded during the robbery. Two little girls were picked up by the bandits and used as shields against a crowd of officers and citizens who pursued the fleeing criminals.

In the unequal fight that followed the police chief of the town was killed and another policeman mortally wounded. After the tires were shot from the bandit car it was stopped and the little girls put out uninjured. One of the bandits was wounded and captured. He died later. The other three escaped but were captured some time afterwards. One of them was electrocuted and the other two sent to the penitentiary. Of the two prisoners, one escaped, while the other, Marshall Ratliff, was recently

brought back to Eastman for hearing on his sanity.

Feigning paralysis Ratliff was not closely guarded. He secured a pistol and attempted to escape. He wounded an unarmed guard three times before he was finally subdued. These are the bare facts indicating that the bandits were cruel and cunning as well as cowardly. They make it plain that the power of the law should have been invoked in its severest form against the criminal outfit. As a protector for society the law should have visited full punishment upon the guilty. Had this been done the institution of law would have preserved its majesty.

But the latest crime of one of the four criminals has caused much graver crime by a mob of 150 or 200 citizens. This mob took the prisoner from the jail, dragged him nude through the streets and sworn to support, then, after an exhibition of cruelty, strung him up. The mob turned around in the majority of cases when they want it, and we as voters will vote for one individual into help them when they point the way to considerate part of the community. Whereas the guilty man had merely trampled upon a decree of the law, the mob at Beware! There is a strong sentiment brewing to take the lawyer along with the criminal to the next party, or perhaps the next, and fit him with the same type of neck furniture. I do not recommend his procedure, for I am for law observance, but many men are not so particular. D. P. YODER.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

NEWS

NOV 11 1929
The Mob's Blood-Lust:

The Florida Lynching

Once more the mob's blood-lust is sated. This latest case of lynching is reported from Quincy, a town in Florida. Admittedly, the lynched man's crime was the gravest imaginable. Even to allude to it is shocking. Mere thought of it arouses resentment too hot for words. But this accused Negro had been indicted by a grand jury. He was already in the hands of the law. Wrested from the law's custody, he was done to death by a mob. Thereby the law itself as well as the Negro was lynched. In a recently similar case here in Alabama, this state was spared lynching of the law. It was spared this disgrace by the governor's rigor and dispatch. Around the Negro suspect here in Alabama, Gov. Graves flung instantly the military. The whole moral and physical strength of the state administration here was pledged to insure for this Negro his legal rights.

These rights were later vouchsafed to him. Duly arrested, he was duly indicted, and duly convicted and, by due process of law, put to death. Here law was respected and enforced. In Florida, law was defied and spurned. What has the governor of Florida to say of this hideous lynching at

NEWS

Dallas, Tex

NOV 23 1929

AGIN' LYNCHING 'EM, BUT RATHER HOTES FOR WORST.

To The News:

The criminal's friend is a certain type of criminal lawyer, and but for him they would be afraid of receiving justice, which is just what they do not want; therefore, such criminal lawyers are the greatest menace to law and order we have in America. When the bar clean up and really stand up for the laws they have about the statutes being faulty will not answer; they can get justice strung him up. The mob turned around in the majority of cases when they want it, and we as voters will help them when they point the way to straighten up the statutes instead of confusing the issue and

community. Whereas the guilty man had merely trampled upon a decree of the law, the mob at Beware! There is a strong sentiment brewing to take the lawyer along with the criminal to the next party, or perhaps the next, and fit him with the same type of neck furniture. I do not recommend his procedure, for I am for law observance, but many men are not so particular. D. P. YODER.

Snyder, Texas

STAR
Anniston, Ala

NOV 22 1929
Lynching Leaves Texas
With Blot On Record

A dark blot has been placed on the history of Texas through the lynching of Marshall Ratliff, known as the "Santa Claus Bandit," in Eastland this week. A mob of 150 men, it was reported, actually committed the gruesome act, but it seems that a crowd of more than 1,800 men, women and children looked on while the victim was being hanged.

None of the men looking on, as far as is indicated in the news stories, raised a hand or made any move whatsoever to prevent the murder. Ratliff was not even given the benefit of the unwritten code of the old West that if a man survived the first attempt to hang him, his life was spared, for he was swung up the second time after the rope had broken and allowed him to fall. The second attempt was successful and the man was dead soon after he was hoisted into the air.

The lynching at Eastland is harder to understand than many others. Ratliff had been condemned by the courts to die and was awaiting execution in the legal manner. But when he added another crime to his account by fatally wounding a deputy sheriff, the fury of the people of the town burst forth and the law was not allowed to take its course.

Sometimes a mob may step in and attempt to right what is considered a wrong or failure on the part of a jury to do its duty, but there was nothing of that kind in this case. A jury had already decided that the man must die. The mob may also decide that it is not safe to wait on the courts and see to it that the accused gets the death that a jury might not order. In Ratliff's case this does not apply, for it was only a matter of time until he would be put to death by the law. He had only one life to give in expiation of crime, so the punishment could not be increased despite the fact that he had committed another act for which the penalty was death.

The only explanation is that the members of the mob believed that death within the law was too good for him and that they seized this opportunity of venting their wrath which had been aroused by the second crime. Like all others, it was a case of men allowing their resentment to monster which the South has driven them into a frenzy and of other men following leaders who had permitted a desire for vengeance to get the better of them.

Lynchings are never justifiable. But some are easier understood than others. This one seems the most foolish of all, for it was only hastening what the state was going to do. The people could have had their lust for blood satisfied without committing any crime themselves had they been content

POST
CHARLESTON, S. C.

DEC 16 1929

NO ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Congressman Dyer's decision not to press his anti-lynching bill further without assurances from the Senate of a more sympathetic attitude—which are not likely to be forthcoming—removes what has been a source of considerable irritation in recent years. For some reason, it was felt that the Dyer bill was aimed especially at the South, although lynching has no

been by any means confined to the South, and it was chiefly through the vigorous efforts of Southern Senators that the bill was kept from passage after it had twice passed the House of Representatives. As a matter of fact, the South is just as much concerned about putting the man to justice as any other part of the country and the various Southern States have made progress in the movement to suppress lynching in recent years, but

press lynching in recent years, but aside from other aspects of the subject, Southern Senators felt that the Dyer measure represented an unwarranted invasion of a sphere of activity that belonged to the States.

Suppression of lynching is a matter that cannot be successfully carried out in any way so well as by local control. Even the influence of the State government is not often effective, as various incidents have proved. It is chiefly a question of inherent respect for law and its processes and that cannot be legislated into people by a federal act or any other. If anything varying terms, lynchings will be the enactment of a federal law or nothing like so popular in Texas. The subject would in some quarters arouse resentment unfriendly to the lynchers, and a great deal of the lynchings on the outcome. If the Eastland grand jury, and after it, trial juries, have the courage that animated the jurors of Clinch County, Georgia, several years ago, when nearly a dozen lynchers were sent to the penitentiary for

Tuesday December 11 1929

LYNCHED

Lynchings is a hydra-headed monster which the South has not yet destroyed. Florida has had three lynchings this year. Several have occurred in other states, and now Texas comes forward with one of the most atrocious cases of mob violence of recent record. A man whose sanity was in question was taken from jail at Eastland, stripped stark naked, and hanged.

As many men as could get their hands on the rope helped pull the victim from the ground.

For some time the South's lynching record has been showing marked improvement. It is true that some of the lynchings were inspired by horrible acts. It is also true that the South has not alone been guilty of mob violence on occasion.

But it is discouraging to read of mob lawlessness after the pendulum apparently has begun to swing the other way. It is rather disheartening to read the Texas story, for there "the usual crime" did not inflame the mob. The man who was lynched was charged with murder, and the courts were moving to determine whether he was sane, and therefore responsible for his acts. Possibly he was shamming, but certainly sufficient doubt existed in his case to justify delay in sentencing him to death.

Law—all the law—is weaker in Texas than it was before the Eastland mob hanged a naked man in the streets of the town. It is announced that the grand jury will immediately be convened in special session to seek indictment of the lynchers, and a great deal of the lynchings on the outcome. If the Eastland grand jury, and after it, trial juries, have the courage that animated the jurors of Clinch County, Georgia, several years ago, when nearly a dozen lynchers were sent to the penitentiary for varying terms, lynchings will be the enactment of a federal law or nothing like so popular in Texas. There hasn't been a case of mob violence in Georgia since the Clinch county clean-up, and it is to be hoped there will be no relapse to this particular form of lawlessness. Lynching is far-reaching in its harmful effects. It serves no good purpose, and does a great deal of harm.—Albany Herald.

Lynchings - 1920

Discussions.
/ **HERALD**

HERALD

MAY 3 / 1923

DIFFERENCE APPARENT

The difference between courage and cowardice is that in California there is a live white man and in Tennessee a dead Negro all because one sheriff defied the mob while in the other the officer surrendered to it. In the case of the California sheriff when more than a hundred men threateningly assembled around the jail where one Hickman, an arch-fiend, was incarcerated, he boldly stepped out before the mob, telling them that if they wanted Hickman to "come and get him." Down in Tennessee the sheriff, fearful lest the mobbers would break in the door of the jail, accordingly opened it for them and allowed them to enter. The rest is history now, bloody history, that the great and honorable state of Tennessee would blot out if it could. A jail door was more sacred to this guardian of the peace than the human life he was sworn to protect with his own if necessary. The fact is, perhaps, his courage failed him and he surrendered through fear of personal harm.

The mob essentially is cowardly because it knows it is wrong to take human life without warrant of law. But en masse even cowards become emboldened and commit acts they would not dream of doing alone. If they know that when they come to take a man duly arrested and in custody of the law of a commonwealth, they will be treated as rebels against that law and the enemy of the state it will have a most soothing effect. They only wreak their vengeance in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred when the sheriff or other officer in charge shows the white feather. Even the mob admires a man of courage and it most certainly fears him. If the Tennessee officer had shown reasonable resistance or had demonstrated the slightest conception of his duty, the record of that fair state would not have another crimson stain upon it.

The state makes officers responsible for property committed to their care. It requires a sheriff to give bond to remunerate it against pecuniary losses, but he may wantonly surrender a human being to be executed by other outlaws without raising his hand and in most cases escapes without even a grand jury investigation. The day will come, though long delayed perhaps because of the lack of public sentiment behind it, when sheriffs and other officers of the law will be held to strict accountability under both civil and criminal

White Press (Southern)

processes for outrages perpetrated against an overwhelming number of Mexican at-prisoner committed to their care. Officers in sympathizers until the last man was killed, there would pathy with the mob or too cowardly to defend & have been no mob murder in his county Tuesday. helpless man against the inflamed populace are One of the mob members might have carried away responsible for most of the lynchings in this some of the sheriff's bullets in his anatomy but he country. Whenever an officer has shown his de- would never have left with the sheriff's keys to the termination to defy the mob and make it fight for county jail.

NEWS

NEWS Vanderbiltville, I. C.

AMERICAN
HATTIESBURG, ~~MISS.~~ *mis*

MAY 3 1982

REMEMBER THE ALAMO?

The mandate of the Tennessee mob has been taken from jail at Alamo, Tenn., yesterday and disobeyed! The murdering lynchers who hanged put to death by a mob. Joe Boxley without due process of law at Alamo. Presumably it was as customary a mob of "de Tennessee, tied a placard to his body commanding terminated" men. Just what they were determined the whole wide world to leave the victim dangling to accomplish is dubious; whether justice or the im at the end of the rope "until 4 p. m. Thursday." Its self-gratification of witnessing a "nigger killing." al is shocking in the extreme to find that the corpse They were not brave men. It is the other kind was cut down Wednesday, a full twenty-four hours of men, who go in mobs during darkness in order earlier than the mob mandate waited. It is the other kind of men, who go in mobs during darkness in order

it earlier than the mob mandate recited. It is even to shirk personal responsibility.

—a They were not good citizens. Good citizens do not smash jail doors, force an officer to dishonor his oath and put a human being to death without trial, trial by due process of law.

peak They did not promote justice. If the negro they
ake got were the right one and guilty as charged, a
hus Tennessee court would have dealt with him effec-
ted tively and promptly. Would any Tennessee citi-
the thezen deny this?

If ex-Sheriff White of Spartanburg county had not once saved an accused negro from a raging mob, there would have been a perfectly innocent victim of blind mob rage, for in a prompt trial few days later it was proved that the negro was guiltless and harmless.

There is but one socially safe, proper and just method for handling even the most offensive criminals, but this way is not by smashing jails and killing without trial.—Spartanburg Herald.

U.S. News & World Report
"Only four persons were lynched
the first six months of 1929." Why
is the "only?" 7-18-29

Volume 17, Number 1, February

Florida Bidding For Lynching "Honors" Deeds of mob violence frequently have been conducted the investigation, was "discharge." Jasper, pending investigation; but the news stories further say that the Grand Jury, which Several white men, it is stated, are in jail at

"echo." Closely following the murder of a man before a finding was made," merchant of Lake City by "persons unknown," comes Florida, with a clean slate for last year, is the brutal lynching of an aged negro whose body bidding for first place in the lynching record of 1929. It may not match other states numerically, was fished out of the Suwannee river. With a fiendishness which gives this lynching but it will be difficult for other states to exceed an unusual feature, the negro's hands were cut out two recent offerings—in the unwarranted off and he was then thrown into the river to lawlessness of the first, the barbaric cruelty of thrown. He was 72 years old. The vague and unsupported offense stated in the news dispatches is that the old man was "found in company with

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.

Sentinel

JUN 4 1929

Fewer Lynchings

Forty-three states were free from lynching during 1928, in comparison with 41 states the preceding year, 28 states in 1926 and 38 states in 1925, according to the Commission on Race Relations of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, in announcing its eighth annual Honor Roll of states free of lynching.

POST-DISPATCH

ST. LOUIS, MO.

JUN 3 1929

Officers and Lynching

This is believed to be the largest number of states and the greatest territory of the nation ever free of lynching. The number of victims of the mob last year was also lower than in any preceding year since records have been kept.

The Honor Roll for 1928 includes three states—Arkansas, Kentucky and Tennessee—which were restored to the roll because they were again free of the evil; although New Mexico, which was on the Honor Roll in 1927, was removed because of the lynching of a Mexican. Of the eleven persons lynched last year, five were in Mississippi, two in Texas, two in Louisiana, one in Missouri and one in New Mexico. However, according to the records of Professor Monroe N. Work, of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, considerable vigilance was practiced in that twenty-four attempted lynchings were prevented last year—three of them in Northern and twenty-one in Southern states.

NEWS

Winston-Salem Journal

JUN 5 1929

FEWER LYNCHINGS (Federal Council Bulletin)

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POST-DISPATCH

ST. LOUIS, MO.

NOT much can be said for the qualities of foresight and caution exercised by that Tennessee sheriff who, with a prisoner for whom a mob was looking, locked the man in jail and hid the key under the parlor rug of his home. Under the parlor rug was the first place the mob leaders no doubt decided to look. The lynchers got their man, of course, and strung him up to a nearby tree. Tennessee got another stain on her escutcheon, and more water was poured on the wheel of Federal legislator

who favor Federal anti-lynching laws. This year's lynching record in the South, piling up as it is, very likely is hastening the day when congress will make another invasion of the province of the States by taking over the task of suppressing mob violence. Sticklers for States' rights protest mightily at this prospect, but if they would avoid such a development, they had better induce their States to accept their responsibilities and stamp out the lynching evil themselves. Officers of the law have it within their power to do much toward preventing lynchings. Courageous, determined officers, men who are ready to defy mobs and protect the prisoners at all costs, have already accomplished a great deal in discouraging lynching. The difficulty is, there are not enough of such officers.

ADVERTISER

MONTGOMERY, ALA.

NOV 24 1929

THE LYNCHING IN TEXAS

The other night a mob lynched a bank robber and murderer at Eastland, Texas. It was a particularly brutal affair. The victim, Ratliff, was hauled up with a rope three times before he was left to die. The first time the rope broke, and another rope was obtained. The second time he was hauled up momentarily only to be lowered to the ground again to see if he had anything to say. Then he was hauled up for the third and last time.

There was, of course, no excuse for this

JOURNAL MONTGOMERY, ALA.

NOV 23 1929

LYNCHING IN TEXAS

That lynching at Eastland, Texas, seems to have been a rather cold affair. It may be that this world will be better off without the presence in it of the victim of the mob's vengeance at Eastland; but that fact does not justify this cold, deliberate and brutal attack upon the law.

This was not a hot weather crime; it was not due to any attack upon the womanhood of Texas; it was not the result of any particularly revolting attack upon anything or anybody. A prisoner, in an effort to get away, shot an officer of the law. It was a brutal crime; but crimes of this sort do not usually excite men to mob violence. These clashes between offenders and officers of the law are common. Officers of the law should and must be protected in this country. Men who shoot officers should be made to square their accounts with the law. It is not the mob's business to settle with them.

and the quicker we get away from the method of making settlement, the better it will be for us.

In this Texas case the prisoner seems to have been stripped of his clothes, dragged into the street and hanged to a telephone pole. It was a shocking attack upon the law in Texas, and an offense which ought not to be allowed to go unchallenged. Lynchings have been on the decrease in these Southern states. If public authorities assume the right attitude toward these attacks upon the law, lynching will continue to decrease in the South. These mobs must not be allowed to take the law in their own hands, for that means the substitution of anarchy for the quiet and safer processes of the law.

Itrocius crime, and such acts are not condoned under any circumstances. But the point is made by The Daily Oklahoman of Oklahoma City that the State of Texas was to blame in this case as well as the awless mob which lynched Ratliff. The state had permitted unreasonable delays in the case, and apparently had handled it in a most negligent manner.

The Oklahoman declares that for the lynching there was no excuse, but goes on to say:

For almost two years the law enforcement agencies of Texas had dilly-dallied with the case of a bank robber and murderer, and for that also there is no excuse.

Several years ago the murderer lynched Tuesday night was released from the Texas Penitentiary by Gov. Miriam Ferguson and sent forth to rob and murder at will. For that unstudied act of clemency there was no excuse.

Although some may explain the Eastland lynching and a few may attempt to palliate it, no one can successfully defend it. The lynching was premeditated murder. Every citizen who participated in the hanging of Ratliff is guilty of wanton murder, regardless of the provocation.

But the State of Texas is not without guilt in the matter. Its duly elected agent released a ruthless criminal from prison and permitted him to reenter the ways of crime. Other elected agents of the State strung out to infinitude the quibbles which criminal procedure has placed in the way of quick and effective punishment. Delay and delay and even more delays. Then the outburst of mob anger and the hanging of Ratliff.

One of Ratliff's accomplices in robbery and murder was tried quickly and electrocuted. No effort was made to organize a mob to punish Henry Helms; the law was moving speedily, and that satisfied the public. No use to hang Helms without the law for it was certain that he was going to be electrocuted within the law.

But in the case of Ratliff there was nothing certain. He had been sentenced to the electric chair, but he had never gone there. Delay followed delay. Insanity proceedings were instituted. Ratliff was brought back from the death cell at Huntsville and lodged in the county jail. Again a long delay. Then a desperate attempt to break jail and Ratliff shot his jailer. Then a storm of anger and the lynching of Tuesday night.

rights, and to preserve these was the

Of course, Ratliff had constitutional solemn duty of the State. But it was not necessary to spend a lifetime in granting these rights and testing them. Delay did more than protect Ratliff temporarily. It killed public confidence in the efficacy of the courts as agencies of justice. When that confidence died it required little to stir the people to a frenzy. When that frenzy came, mob violence was made inevitable.

Those men murdered Ratliff. But slow-moving justice caused them to do it. They killed Ratliff because they believed that the State never would punish him. If confidence in authority had not been killed by the law's delay Ratliff would not have been killed by the mob.

The Oklahoman concludes that this tragedy occurred in Texas, but "it could have occurred almost anywhere else." "The mildew of precedent which has slowed down justice in Texas has slowed it down in other States also," it says. "The antiquated methods which have weakened confidence in Texas have weakened confidence in other States."

This criticism of the State of Texas seems altogether justified by the circumstances of the case. Without condoning the action of the mob, one may place a large part of the blame for the tragedy in the State.

Lynchings - 1929
Discussions.

White Press, (Southern.)

2859



HERALD
Suffolk, Va.

JAN 4 1929

BILBO HAS FAILED HIS GENERATION

This newspaper hopefully awaited some explanation from Governor Bilbo of the statement imputed to him that he had "neither the time nor the money" to investigate the 2,500 of his fellow Mississippians who took a Negro from his captors and subjected him to hours of torture before burning him to death on a funeral pyre they had erected for the purpose. In spite of the indignation of many of the good people of his own state and the protests of his fellow countrymen, begging him to take some step to bring the ring leaders of the crime to justice, the answer still stands. In all the history of this country there has never been anything to equal this amazing attitude on the part of the governor of any commonwealth.

No one is trying to extenuate the crime committed by the man who was done to death almost in the presence of officers and men of the soldiery of the state of Mississippi. It was heinous because it was premeditated and unprovoked. But the Negro's was a crime against society; his murder by the mob was a crime against civilization—the civilization of the white south which has boasted of its chivalry and its devotion to the spirit of fair play. But now that the governor of that commonwealth, which has blazed a blood-red trail from one end of it to the other, blackened with the corpses of 524 mob-murdered victims, encourages such outrages, there is nothing left except to pillory the guilty upon the cross of outraged public opinion.

This newspaper knows that the best people of Mississippi feel the everlasting shame that has been brought to their fair state. The Bilbos and the lynchers may say this affair does not concern Virginia or anybody else outside of Mississippi. But they are mistaken because it is an assault upon the very citadel of the nation, an affront to every citizen under the flag. The only hope now for the vindication of the honor of the state of Mississippi lies in the judge and the court of the county wherein this fiery drama was enacted. Perhaps there is one with the manhood and the courage to stand up for the good name of that state and at least make an honest effort to bring the guilty to justice and enthrone law and order. Governor Bilbo has failed his generation, his state, his country. Surely the court, the altar of justice, has not been caught in the sweep of lawlessness that has made our boasted Anglo-Saxon civilization a by-word in the land. Surely the final curtain has not been rung down upon an outrage so banzonly atrocious.

THE SHEPHERD LYNCHING.

Lexington, Miss.

The Commercial Appeal: So many articles have been written about lynching that it seems to be a popular subject just now. The recent hideous tragedy in the Delta a month ago when the negro, Shepherd, murdered a prison guard and then kidnaped and assaulted his daughter to meet death at the hands of a mob who burned him later ~~condemned~~ forth some of the severest criticism ever put in print condemning the affair. I have always deplored mob violence in all its forms and phases and we of the south where progress has come to bless and aid should rise in our might and stamp out this ~~monstrosity~~ before the world pronounces us uncivilized.

There is a court and jail in Sunflower County and in that jail is a gallows. A jury of 12 men could have found the negro guilty as charged and shortly thereafter he could have been hanged. No other country on earth allows lynching except America. If we are to continue as a ~~land~~ ~~sovereign~~ ~~in-abiding~~ people let us forever annul this gruesome practice and whenever a mob does form guard the prisoner with troops until trial by law.

The mob is composed of hot-headed individuals who have neither the head to think nor the heart to feel and to quote from the immortal Lydston the mob hungers for a criminal's life not because he is a criminal but because he is a helpless individual whose death will satisfy their desire for revenge." A mob in Kentucky that sought a negro for a similar crime to this was met by a volley of shots from the militia. God speed the day when Judge Lynch shall be disbarred and when trial by jury is assured to all.

RACE PREJUDICE HIT BY SPEAKERS AT MEMPHIS MEET

Memphis, Tenn., January 2.—(P)—Four speakers at the international missionary conference joined with the college of bishops of the Methodist Episcopal church south, today, in asserting that race prejudice, and mob law, are hindrances to the progress of Christianity.

The college of bishops adopted a resolution opposing lynching after Dr. Frank N. Onderdonk, superintendent of the Texas Mexican mission, in an address to the conference referred to the burning of a negro convict-murderer in Mississippi Monday night, and three others in the racial problems.

There were many, Dr. Onderdonk said, who wept over the colored man in Africa, but would keep him from being burned in America." Occurrences similar to the Mississippi lynching, he said, gave other nations their picture of Christianity in America."

Bishop W. B. Beauchamp, of Atlanta, said that the church must eliminate "this terrific race prejudice" before Christianity could fulfill its mis-

Montgomery, Ala.

JAN 7 1929

TWO GOVERNORS

Press dispatches last week, almost on the same page, brought into prominence two Southern Governors—Long, of Louisiana, and Bilbo, of Mississippi.

One of them, the Governor of Louisiana, took a stand for law and justice which should receive the hearty approval of all law-abiding citizens. The other, Bilbo, of Mississippi, showed himself a demagogue and unfaithful to his high trust.

Gov. Long, in denying clemency to the two Louisiana murderers scheduled to hang last Saturday, said: "But one thing remains to save this country from an increasing crime wave and reckless destruction of human life: an unwavering policy of enforcement not only by State officials, but by the upstanding citizenship of the country."

Governor Long Is Right

The Governor of Louisiana is eminently correct. Let the murderers who are sentenced by the courts to hang go to the gallows! Let the burglars and thieves who are given penitentiary sentences by judges and juries serve their full time in the penitentiary! Let the plunderers of life and property be punished and be punished promptly and severely! Do this for a year or two, and the law-abiding citizens of

America, the man and the woman who work hard for their daily living, and who are entitled to go their lawful way unmolested by murderers and thieves, will have some chance to hang him? Why not? Because they are this country. As the laws are now framed the law-abiding citizen is at the mercy of crooks and murderers. The law-abiding citizen enjoys his life and his property not so much because the government is able to protect him in it, but rather because the crook or murderer who wants his life or property just hasn't got around to him yet. Three cheers for Governor Long.

Bilbo's Attitude Nauseating

A few days ago the Governor of Mississippi was called on to face the question of dealing with a mob which had lynched a man, a member of which were murderers under the law.

Gov. Bilbo did nothing. Worse still, he practically condoned the acts of the mob by saying in substance that it was a mighty hard matter to punish a mob of 2,000 people. Well, it might be a mighty hard job, but if Mississippi isn't big enough to attempt it, if the State lacks the power to enforce her laws, she has no title to be called a State. It's just government by sufferance. And, of course, if the Governor of the State is in sympathy with those who violate the State's laws, and gives them the protection of his office, then it is indeed a hard task that Justice is confronted with.

Words From An Alabama Judge

But all officials are not and have not been of the Bilbo type. And for this the country is thankful, truly thankful.

A mob in Alabama once lynched a man, tore down the jail, tried to kill the officers of the law and opposed the military. It was a large mob, but the size of the mob did not deter the judge who sat on the bench in the county where the lynching occurred from making an

attempt to bring the members of the mob to justice.

And I commend to Gov. Bilbo, and all who think as the Mississippi executive thinks, these words from the lips of an Alabamian, now gathered to his fathers—a man who fought mob and mob law all his days, fought it as a citizen, as a commander of State Troops, as a governor and as a Federal judge.

A Stab At Sovereignty

"Every mob is a stab at the sovereignty of the people, and a malign denial to them by force of arms of the right to the freedom of existence that those who have flouted the State's orderly government. There is not a village in Alabama whose able-bodied men and boys would not fly to arms to repel a band of freebooters who organized in their midst to en-fulness to the law, and example of weakness force a demand that the community should have nothing to do with the enforcement of its own laws. Yet this is the mob, and what it does. The fire bells would ring out the alarm and the streets of any of our cities would swarm with armed and indignant people if they were told that a gang of intruders were coming to expel their chosen judges from the judgment seats, and put irresponsible and vicious men, chosen by the marauders in their places. Yet that is the mission of the mob when it arms to storm a jail and put a prisoner to death. If men would only reflect what treason mob law is to their homes and institutions, mobs would be well nigh impossible.

Robert E. Lee and John B. Gordon

"Aside from this attack on government, the evils of the mob have almost boundless sweep in all the relations of life. Can any man, in the wildest flight of the brain, picture Robert E. Lee or John B. Gordon, no matter what the charge against the criminal, joining a mob to break down a jail, and taking a prisoner out to derers and thieves, will have some chance to hang him? Why not? Because they are this country. As the laws are now framed types of courage and honor, and justice and the law-abiding citizen is at the mercy of crooks and murderers. The law-abiding citizen such an act. No man who forms a part of enjoys his life and his property not so much because the government is able to protect him in it, but rather because the crook or murderer who wants his life or property just hasn't got around to him yet. Three cheers for Governor Long.

Bilbo's Attitude Nauseating

"What is the influence of churches, schools and homes in teaching discipline and self-control, and glad submission by the young to parents and others in authority over them when the lawless and vicious are allowed, by example which goes unpunished, to inspire the young with the feeling that the dagger and go with him. He told me if I wouldn't go he wouldn't give up, but would take a chance on fighting. I searched him but he had no weapon. He told me he didn't have anything except a rifle, which was on the bed in the cabin. He had left with the rifle and six cartridges and still had them.

People Not Attracted To Mob Community

"What stranger would be attracted to a community which is either unwilling, or unable to throttle such men and counsels? What the rifle and six cartridges and a worthy man, if he can leave, will long remain or care to rear a family, in a community where outbursts of mob violence are frequent? What

"We got in a car and started for Parchman, but met such a mob that we tried to make it to Cleveland to turn him over to the sheriff, but a mile and a half from Cleveland they took him away from it? The check to the material and moral welus."

fate of a community by a reign of mob violence, is far worse than conflagration or pestilence. A people can rebuild their burned houses and refurbish devastated homes, but the generation which tolerates mob violence bequeaths

and they would send me home, and I came on.

"Charley kept pleading for me not to leave him, but I couldn't help him. I felt sorry for him. I have a heart and don't believe in mobs. I wanted the law to take its course.

"The last I heard Charley say was, 'Miss, for God's sake don't leave me, please don't let them take me'."

"The captor of the man for whom as many as 2,000 men have searched at one time, is small of stature, being only five feet in height. All afternoon she was besieged with interviewers, and tonight said she was nervous.

Rewards totaling \$1,000 were offered for Shepherd's capture.

TIMES-JOURNAL
SELMA, ALA.

MAR 29 1929

OUSTING JUDGE LYNCH

Encouraging progress in the work of wiping out lynching in the United States is reported in a bulletin from the commission of church and race relation of the Federal Council of Churches.

During 1928 there were 43 states in which no lynchings took place—the highest number since statistics not talk much. "I asked him why without doubt, the highest number he did it, and he said. "I don't in the history of the country. The sought, Miss Laura Mae Keeler to-out some time." He taught, Miss lay captured Charley Shepherd. Keeler said, that she might aid in negro murderer and abductor, while obtaining his release from the hundreds of men combed the state prison farm, where he was serving a 20-year sentence for man-thickets for him, and then went serving a 20-year sentence for man-along with him at his request to slaughter, and from which he offer what protection she could escaped early Friday after killing from mob.

Lynch law is slowly dying out. The combination of enlightened public opinion and courageous officers of the law is cutting it down. J. D. Duvall, carpenter sergeant at to hope that in the near future a When the negro and his es-tors were overtaken, near Cleve-land, about 2:30 o'clock this afternoon, Miss Keeler, 18-year-old daughter, Ruth, who made her way to a prison camp Saturday, "The last I heard from Charley," "Sorry" for her former "hand," Miss Keeler said, "was his begging whose last words as he was being me not to leave him. He was pretaken away by a mob were please-ty badly scared."

J. D. Duvall,

Shepherd told Miss Keeler that at one time while he was in hiding a dog came within 50 feet of him and he could see a group of men searching for him.

Last night he walked seven miles

down a gravel road to Miss Keeler's place, arriving about midnight.

and this morning sent word to his brother. The brother notified Miss Keeler.

Was I frightened when I went

down to the cabin?" Miss Keeler repeated the question. "I certain-

ly was not."

Asked if she went

armed, she replied, "I don't even

have a gun."

Mob Was Big One.

Miss Keeler "didn't have time to

count" the men in the mob that took Shepherd from her and several men who were seeking to get him safely in jail, but estimated the number at 50.

"We're going to take him,"

members of the mob said succinct-

ly, when Miss Keeler tried to pre-

vail upon the men to let the law

take its course. "They asked me

to get out of the car and I got out.

They asked me to get in another

Lynchings-1929

Discussions.

Atlanta, Ga., Georgian

1-1-29

The Lynching Problem Is Steadily But Surely Being Solved

LYNCHING statistics for the United States, as authoritatively and accurately assembled, reveal that there were nine persons victims of mob law in that shape throughout the country during the year 1928.

That is bad enough, in all conscience; but it shows a very distinct and enheartening improvement over the country's previous year's record in respect of this matter—which is in turn in keeping with steadily improving conditions of the past few years.

The total of the nine for the year just closed is seven less than the total of 16 for 1927—and 21 less than 1926.

That is a sign of the times for which every good citizen in this republic should give thanks to his God!

Statistics not only show an increasing disinclination to inflict mob punishment, but an increasing determination upon the part of the constituted authorities to resist the same.

Of the nine persons lynched, Louisiana must take the responsibility for two; Mississippi for three; Missouri for one; Texas for two, and New Mexico for one—all south of the Mason and Dixon line.

That is not so good; nevertheless, it is a fact and circumstance that must be taken into consideration frankly and fearlessly that the people of this great and enlightened section of the nation may make it persistently and vigilantly their business to see to it that lynching is wiped out ENTIRELY in this fair land!

There were no lynchings in Georgia either for 1927 or 1928.

TENNESSEAN
NASHVILLE, TENN.

APR 5 - 1929

White Press, (Southern.)

AMERICAN
HATTIESBURG, WIS. *Miss*

JAN 11 1929

THE GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION

Judge Robert S. Hall was eminently correct when he told the Forrest county grand jury Thursday afternoon that "your searching investigation will make lynchers think twice before they take a human life and will go a long way toward checking mob violence in this part of the state." While the inquisitorial body found no indictments against the perpetrators of this dastardly crime, prior to filing its report, it may be stated with equal positiveness that there was no inclination on the part of the grand jurors, the district attorney, or the county attorney to whitewash this lynching.

The smallest number of lynchings in the United States since records were kept and the smallest number of states in which lynchings took place was the record for 1928, according to a report issued today by the commission on race relations of the Federal Council of Churches. There were eleven lynchings, in five states—five in Mississippi, two in Texas, two in Louisiana, one in Missouri and one in New Mexico. In 1927 there were lynchings in seven states, in 1926 in ten and in 1925 in ten. Arkansas, Kentucky and legal proof upon which to predicate an indictment. Tennessee are the states added to the honor roll. New Mexico, which had a clean record in 1927, had one lynching last year.

Statistics of lynching totals by states over a period of years would be needed to tell the whole story but the commission's grouping of states by length of time in which their records have been clear is instructive. The only states in which there has never been a lynching are New England states—five of the six. Maine shares with New Jersey the record of not having had a lynching since 1886. The states with a 25-year clean record are Delaware and Wisconsin; with a 20-year record, Michigan, Nevada, Indiana and Iowa; with a 15-year record, Idaho, Maryland, Pennsylvania and South Dakota; with a ten-year record, New York and five Western states; with a five-year record, North Carolina, West Virginia and six Western states; with a two-year record, Alabama, Oklahoma, Ohio, Illinois, Utah, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina and Virginia.

The "invasion of the solid South" by the no-devil's own business in the devil's own way. Hence lynching standard it will be noticed is very recent, North Carolina being "taken" five years ago, followed by six other states only two years ago. Also it will be noticed that naked form was found dangling from a tree in Ohio, Illinois and Utah close up the ranks for Richburg hill the next morning. The North with the border state of Missouri still to come. The commission includes in its report the testimony of Professor Work, the strong charge of Judge Hall, the searching and Tuskegee authority on lynching statistics, determined investigation of the grand jury and its the comparatively good record of 1928 was due in part to greater vigilance by the authorities of law and order, twenty-one attempts at lynching having been prevented in Southern states and three in Northern states. Mississippi Lynchers in this county are on notice that the forces of law and order do not intend ever again to sit supinely by and let them get away with such murders. It will take a conviction in court, in all probability, to end the infamous practice. But every bit of the work done by public-spirited citizens, a fearless judge, a conscientious district attorney, and a determined grand jury pave the way for the final act that will wipe out the scourge forever.

Murderers of "Son" McCallum may never face earthly trial for their heinous crime. But they have got to live with their consciences for the remainder of their lives. In the dark hours of the night they will hear the agonized screams of McCallum's wife as her helpless husband was dragged from his bed. When they see a rope they will see in their mind's eye the figure of their writhing victim, choking to death on Richburg hill. And some day at the judgment bar above, where the secrets of all men are made known, they must stand before the Great Judge whose stern command, "Thou shalt not kill," they so ruthlessly violated. Let them be prepared in that dread hour to hear a voice saying: "Vengeance is mine: I will repay, saith the Lord."

*Star
Portsmouth, Va*

MAR 30 1929

OUSTING JUDGE LYNCH.

Encouraging progress in the work of wiping out lynching in the United States is reported in a bulletin from the commission of church and race relations of the Federal Council of Churches.

During 1928 there were 43 states in which no lynchings took place—the highest number since statistics of this kind were tabulated, and, without doubt, the highest number in the history of the country. The number of victims of the mob in other states—eleven—was also the lowest in history.

Lynch law is slowly dying out. The combination of enlightened public opinion and courageous officers of the law is cutting it down, year by year. It is not too much to hope that in the near future a lynching will be almost unknown throughout the United States.

VICTIM WAS A HERO.

Cleveland, Miss.

To The Commercial Appeal:
I read an article in your Friday edition written by Samuel J. Stockard of Oxford on "Law had its chance and failed." Gentlemen, if you have room in your column I would like to express my opinions in answer to this article.

Mr. Stockard has evidently forgotten in his enthusiasm that the State of Mississippi is a sovereign state with laws and adequate provision for their enforcement. He

Star
Bainston, Ala
MAR 31 1929

Progress Made In Freeing Country From Lynch Law

Figures issued some time ago by Tuskegee Institute revealed that Alabama and several other Southern states went through 1928 without any lynchings, although most of the mob killings were recorded below the Mason and Dixon line. More recently some additional facts in regard to the 1928 lynching record were presented in a bulletin issued by the Federal Council of Churches.

In the latter report, it is brought out that with 43 states going through the year without a lynching, 1928 set the lowest mark of the period covered in the tabulated statistics. Never before since records of lynchings have been kept have so many states reported no lynchings, it is stated, and believe is expressed that it is the highest number in the history of the country. The number of victims in the other eleven states was the lowest on record, so we have the encouraging facts of fewer lynchings and more states on the honor roll.

Slowly, but surely, the country is making progress toward the day when lynchings will be practically unknown. Lynch law is becoming more unpopular and communities now dislike more than ynced him. Probably Mr. Stockard overlooked this possibility in his exultation over "mob law."

Mr. Stockard uses a quotation from Sir Bulwer-Lytton to carry his point, but I must say that Mr. Stockard did not read this quotation the second time or he would have seen that it worked against him rather than for him. Down through the ages from the Biblical days to the present day everyone has conceded the right of the nearest kin to avenge a wrong without fear of punishment. Sir Bulwer-Lytton says: "When dishonor enters our homes Law dies and murder rises to take the shape of angel justice."

This quotation from Sir Bulwer-Lytton is indeed true but we must not construe its meaning. Dishonor did not enter the homes of the members of the mob. Everyone knows that. Then could "murder" rise to take the shape of angel justice? It could have risen had the nearest of kin to the slain and the wronged been the avenger.

Charles Sheppard deserved death, but not at the hands of a mob nor at the stake heaped with flaming fagots.

The white race is supreme in the State of Mississippi and let us continue to keep it supreme. This outrage has made a "hero" out of Charles Sheppard in the eyes of those for whom the lesson was half way civilized are good. I think, however, instead of firing the sheriff, we should search for the cause of these lynchings. The best way to remedy any evil is to find the cause and remove it. A

Yours sincerely,

B. A. SHARP,
Student Delta State Teachers Col-
lege.

study of this question along the line of evolution will, I believe, show us the cause. We know that even animals will band themselves together to protect their young, and the instinct that we all have to protect our young is commendable, but the man which we accomplish by means altogether on whether we are still

on the same level with the Apache Indians who tortures his enemy, or whether we are evolved to a state of civilization where we are controlled by reason instead of blind animal instinct, or the irrational emotions of the savage. In order to control others, one must first learn to control oneself. The negro who commits a crime of this character does so because he is hampered in their effort to de-

velop the progress and prosperity of the state when there goes

Men who lynch the negro do so because their emotions are stronger than their reasoning powers. They lack self control as much as the negro they refuse to punish the murderers!

lynchings and the governor's

refusal to punish the murderers! Later, when reason resumes its sway, the men who do, every member of a mob

take part in this act of savagery that lynch a man is guilty of

are ashamed of themselves, even though they try to justify their un-

awful act by claiming that a criminal who is lynched, because

it is a lynching of the sovereign

hood was the motive back of the

Any emotion, even love, is of the state. Moreover, it is applied in an atrocious way, and

dangerous unless controlled by plants in the hearts of the young

erson. Many a boy's life has been

spoiled by a mother's love that was

HERALD
VICKSBURG, MISS.

FEB 20 1929
DOWN WITH MOB LYNCHING

Manufacturers Record)

Two lynchings occurred in Mississippi, and as to one of them at least the governor dis-

graced the state and his high office by taking the ground that

he had neither time nor money

to prosecute those who were guilty of these outrages.

Poor Mississippi! How its good people must suffer! How they must feel enthrallled by such con-

tions, and how they must feel

unable to control his emotions.

Men who lynch the negro do so because their emotions are stronger than their reasoning powers. They lack self control as much as the negro they refuse to punish the murderers!

lynchings and the governor's

refusal to punish the murderers!

Later, when reason

For, disguise it as one may try

Vicksburg Herald, for instance

that instead of being an act

ever it may suit their conven-

iential, that lynching is a sign of

weakness on their part; that it

exhibits a lack of self control that

is inexcusable except in animals,

savages and those who have not

reached mental maturity, they will

quit it. These very men will

severely punish a boy of theirs

who in a fit of temper strikes his

sister, yet they have no more self

control than the boy they are cor-

recting. If there is any one less

son that we should learn in this

ber of the lynching mob?

This cannot be accomplished until Mississippi puts into the gubernatorial chair and in the legislature men of upstanding character and of the backbone that knows no weakness, and with a determination that lynching shall never again disgrace

their state.

Eleven lynchings in the United States last year, and five of these in the one state of Mississippi!

And yet that is a glorious state of magnificent resources, with

many superb men and women

who hang their heads in shame

because of the disgrace that has

brought upon them.

There are at least a few papers

in Mississippi, notably the Hattiesburg American and The Vicks-

Burg Herald, and possibly others,

or the moment than their reason-

ing powers. They lack self con-

rol as much as the negro they refuse to punish the murderers!

lynchings with language as vir-

orous as we are using. The

Vicksburg Herald, for instance

says: "No law-abiding citizen can successfully defend murder, and

indeed than the crime of the

lynching is murder in its most

hazardous protection of woman-

criminal who is lynched, because

dreadful form. It is brute force

and it is a throw-back to the methods

of the dark ages." The Herald

referred to the members of the

mob who did the lynching as

brutes, and it adds: "No state

can thrive where lynching

thrives."

The Hattiesburg American says

it has "appealed to the higher

law of conscience and morality

when mob murderers trample

upon all the refinements of civi-

lization," but that today it makes

its appeal on "a lower level of

enlightened self-interest"; and

adds:

"Men who earn their bread in

the sweat of their brow must be

protected in their lives and their

property, or else our population

will continue to decrease, our

payrolls to decline, and law and

order yield to the law of the

ungle."

These expressions and others

which have come from Mississip-

pi people are hopeful signs of

an awakening spirit

Ga., Sun

March 8, 1929

Chicago papers love to lambast the

South about lynching. We don't do it

in dozens and half dozens down here

Two at time is about as high as we

Scalping their enemies has been

largely discontinued by the Indians, and burning at the stake

will have to be discontinued before the white men of this country can lay claim to being a civilized, much less a cultured people.

BOB LYLE.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Lyle.

Lynchings-1929.

Discussions.
HERALD
AUGUSTA, GA.

APR 15 1929

A Northern Lynching

(From The Macon New

The Northern press which criticises the South for its lynchings rarely stops to realize that a noose and a tree are not necessary ingredients of this particular form of law violation. The series of murders in such cities as New York and Chicago on the part of gangsters who are simply taking the law in their own hands to punish an enemy are lynchings in quite as real a sense as ever took place in the South where the victim was taken out at night and swung to a tree.

If anything were needed to bring this fact home more closely it is furnished by the latest lynching in New York City. One Sam Sacco and his wife were murdered in cold blood as they slept in their bed. Sacco was thought to have been instrumental in the killing of a man named DeLuca in retaliation for killing Sacco's brother Joseph in 1917. DeLuca

was arrested, but finally released. This did not satisfy Sacco, however. He made up his mind to take the law into his own hands.

It was necessary for him to postpone his private vengeance for a time because he was detained in the penitentiary. Recently he was released, got married and moved into an apartment. Realizing that he walked in the shadow of assassination, his door was barred and lined with steel so that bullets could not penetrate it. The precautions were vain, however. A few mornings ago several gangsters battered their way into the armor-plated rooms of Sacco and murdered him and his wife.

Nothing whatever distinguished this crime from what is generally called a lynching except that it was carried out with bullets instead of a rope.

Which is one more reason why the

South has become a little jaded with criticisms from the North on Southern lynchings.

There is every reason why the governor should not be satisfied with a mere perfunctory investigation surrounding this affair. The circumstances surrounding it are exceedingly peculiar. It is difficult to understand how a prisoner could be removed from the jail and hanged without the sheriff of the county knowing anything about his absence until the finding of his dead body, was reported.

This is a mystery which the governor should insist on having explained. Perhaps the members of the mob will never be brought to justice, but if the sheriff has been lax in his duties the governor will know how to act.

From all accounts the affair at Lake City this week was particularly disgraceful. Even the appearance of justification with which mobs usually excuse their acts, was lacking. The victim had not even committed any crime, unless to be a foreigner is a crime in Florida. His Florida has been besmirched in a peculiarly revolting manner. No in return, so that score was evened.

But the victim of the savage mok can take place is entitled to call it that dragged him out of jail and tool self fully civilized.

his life was guiltless of anything except foolish conduct.

TRIBUNE

H. Price, Fla.

MAY 18 1929

A DISGRACEFUL AFFAIR

Governor Carlton is to be commended on his quick action in demanding a searching investigation of Florida's latest lynching.

This is a mystery which the governor should insist on having explained. Perhaps the members of the mob will never be brought to justice, but if the sheriff has been lax in his duties the governor will know

how to act.

The good name of the state of Florida has been besmirched in a

wife shot a policeman but was killed community where such an occurrence

in return, so that score was evened.

White Press, (Southern).

nor's investigation will determine

how keen are the people of Lake City to redeem themselves and the good name of the state.

This Afternoon VIRGINIAN-PILOT

NORFOLK, VA.

MAY 19 1929
Florida's Disgrace

The lynching reported from Lake City, Florida, is free of the racial antagonism that perfumes most crimes of this type, but not from the maniacal savagery that is their common characteristic. Lynchers and lynched were all members of the Caucasian race and there were no chivalric complications. N. G. Romey, a Lake City grocer, became embroiled with Chief of Police John F. Baker, over some rubbish in front of his store which the officer ordered him to clean up. In one of the engagements of the rubbish war, the grocer's wife opened fire on the Chief, wounding him in the shoulder. The officer returned the fire inflicting wounds from which the woman died in a few hours. She was taken to a hospital and her husband was lodged in jail. In the early morning hours a group of men that the sheriff describes as a "mob" forced the lock and bars of Romey's cell, took him out into the country, shot him to death and left the bullet-riddled body in a ditch. From this point on the story follows the traditional channel. The sheriff says that he has "no idea" as to the identity of the men composing the mob or their number. In other words, nobody will swing for this.

The first observation that is in order is a word of commiseration for this poor, inflammable nature of ours that from time moves us to mortal conflict over such miserable inconsequential as the disposal of a bit of rubbish. The second observation that is in order is an unconditional condemnation of the blood lust that leads men in groups to commit murders from which they would shrink as individuals. From beginning to end, the episode is disgraceful—the wounding of an officer, the killing of

a woman and lynching of a man as the result of an altercation over rubbish disposal, and the suspicious dumbness of a sheriff who can be an eyewitness of a jail-breaking without suspecting the identity of a single one of the kidnappers, or being able to estimate, even roughly, the numerical strength of the mob.

STAR

Ocala, Fla.

MAY 25 1929

That was a most regrettable occurrence the other day at Lake City, where a Syrian was taken from the jail and lynched. There are some things behind the crime that have not been made public yet, but no matter how extenuating the circumstances, the lynching was inexcusable and those who participated in it should be brought to book. One crime cannot be corrected by the commission of another of a baser nature and whenever the people of a community take the law in their hands they do much to breed disrespect for law and order, deprived of which none of them would be safe in their homes.

LEDGER

Columbus, Ga.

MAY 28 1929

LYNCHERS GALORE

The amount of lynching going on in Chicago and New York is appalling.

Gunmen who try to avenge the death of other gunmen kill their opponents and get away with their crimes. The thing is more intense than the spirit of vendetta which prevails in Italy. It is worse than lynching in the south, because it is more persistent and more wholesale.

The men who kill in New York and Chicago work fast. Years used to elapse before assassinations in Kentucky were redressed by someone shooting behind bushes or over the fence—sometimes generations. But murders in the north and west come about quickly. The man who wants to avenge the taking off of a pal does not allow himself to brood long. He shoots promptly and thinks afterwards. He usually has his get-away well staged, and his automobile wheels carefully greased. His co-conspirators are well drilled.

This is lynching, because these assassins take the law into their own hands and seek to avenge murders of their companions. They are rarely caught. Like the verdicts which used to be rendered by the country coroner's jury "they come to their deaths at the hands of parties unknown". Possibly some of the law officers are afraid to unearth them because the people are prepared to lynch law officers as readily as they shoot opposing gunmen. One of them attacked a judge not long ago. They are loaded for jurymen who dare to find indictments against them. They are lynchers of the worst type, and most of their misdeeds happen in the gentle and lawful sections of New York and Chicago.—Savannah Press.

2861

ITEM
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

MAY 23 1929

Lynching Lessening

Federal Council Bulletin

LYNCHING
IN THE same editions of Louisiana papers
in which appeared announcement of
the winning of the Pulitzer prize for an
editorial against lynching, appeared the
story of the murder of a negro in Missis-
sippi at the hands of a mob. We still need
being allowed a trial.

FORTY-THREE states were free from
lynching during 1928, in comparison
with 41 states the preceding year, 38 states
in 1926 and 38 states in 1925, according to
the Commission on Race Relations of the
Federal Council of the Church of Christ
in America, in announcing its eighth an-
nual Honor Roll of states free of lynching.
This is believed to be the largest number
of states and the greatest territory of prize winning editorials on the subject. Per-
haps we need more officers who will ful-
ly fill the trust put in them by protecting
their prisoners. And most of all we need
enlightenment and faith in our laws on
which were restored to the roll because
they were again free of the evil; although
New Mexico, which was on the Honor Roll
in 1927, was removed because of the lynch-
law, its uselessness and brutality are ap-
pealing of a Mexican. Of the eleven persons
lynched last year, five were in Mississippi,
two in Texas, two in Louisiana, one in Mis-
souri and one in New Mexico. However,
according to the records of Professor Mon-
roe N. Work of Tuskegee Institute, Ala-
bama, considerable vigilance was practiced
in that twenty-four attempted lynchings
were prevented last year—three of them in
Northern and twenty-one in Southern
states.

COMMENTING upon the progress made in
this problem, Dr. George E. Haynes
said:

"America is slowly becoming a lynchless land. The reduction in the number of lynchings last year and the increase by two states of the territory free of this blot upon our democracy demonstrate the increasing pressure of public conscience upon those who would take the law into their own hands."

"It now seems clear that public opinion should be focused more and more upon the few remaining states where lynching persists, and every encouragement and aid should be given to the law-abiding citizens and public officials in those states that are struggling to make law an order supreme and to suppress the tendency to mob violence."

"The number of lynching prevented every year shows what can be done. We look to the newspapers, white and negro, to the racial feeling, lawlessness, and the spirit of mob violence. These we condemn utterly. But it is only fair to distribute the blame justly. The action of our courts is so protracted, so uncertain, and the loopholes left in our criminal law through technicalities are so numerous, that blame must rest with authorities as well as mobs."

Back of lynching, however, lie not merely the racial feeling, lawlessness, and the spirit of mob violence. These we condemn utterly. But it is only fair to distribute the blame justly. The action of our courts is

so protracted, so uncertain, and the loopholes left in our criminal law through technicalities are so numerous, that blame must rest with authorities as well as mobs."

TRIBUNE
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

MAY 19 1929

NEWS
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

MAY 29 1929

Chicago Lynching

A lynching is not necessarily a hanging, nor does it involve the horror of the torch. Lynchings are registered against the South when fugitives, suspected by inflamed mobs, are shot and killed without vent lynchings.

Neither lynching nor capital punishment diminishes crime. Education and enlightenment can and will prevent lynchings.

Determined peace officers whose sympathies are with the law and not with the mob can do much, but officers generally are of no larger caliber than the voters who elect them.

Under such a system of counting, In the last analysis public opinion Chicago's gang killings properly rules.

When a community realizes that come under the head of lynchings, as do similar crimes in New York, the mob lynches the law as well as the South has gradually reduced the object of its hate, then lynchings the number of lynchings, in response to an outraged public opinion among Southern people. No

such public opinion in Chicago has been able to eliminate the machine South the victim of mob violence is nearly gun lynchings which has kept the city in terror. Seven were lynched

is hardly possible that any jury would fail at one time St. Valentine's day.

to give him the extreme penalty. Simply

on the basis of economy of effort, lynching in such cases is useless. But of course

there is the deep injury to the South which
the spectacle of such lawlessness and violence inevitably causes.

The only possible justification of lynching might lie in the failure of courts to conviction criminals upon whom has been proven

a heinous crime. But it is never upon these that the ruthlessness of the mob gluts itself, but upon men who have had no trial at all, but who would undoubtedly receive swift and severe sentence from any court in the land, if brought before it.

Back of lynching, however, lie not merely the racial feeling, lawlessness, and the spirit of mob violence. These we condemn utterly. But it is only fair to distribute the blame justly. The action of our courts is

so protracted, so uncertain, and the loopholes left in our criminal law through technicalities are so numerous, that blame must rest with authorities as well as mobs.

Dr. Cowan, in choosing the twelve most vivid personalities the other day, selected Mahatma Ghandi on his list. Ghandi, leader in the passive or "bloodless" revolution, is one of the great figures of Mother India. There are dispatches of trouble in India now. These, however, are caused by Bolshevik agents in the northern part. Such troubles are easily countered. The revolution led by Ghandi is relentless, unconquerable because it forces that play upon it is passive. It is one of those weird, implacable things which belong to India and which the Western world cannot counteract.

In this man's shriveled body is a spirit which has touched millions. His brain has unloosed a force which may remold Asia.

MEMPHIS
TENNESSEE

MAY 30 1929
The Law Is Lynched
Tennessee took a step backward

Wednesday when a Crockett county mob lynched a negro. The victim was guilty of a heinous crime, but that is never an excuse for mob murder.

Lynching is going out of style in Tennessee. In 1928 there were only two such crimes committed in the entire state. We are making progress, or think we are, until a crime is committed, a mob is formed and a lynching staged.

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such public opinion in Chicago has been able to eliminate the machine South the victim of mob violence is nearly gun lynchings which has kept the city in terror. Seven were lynched

is hardly possible that any jury would fail at one time St. Valentine's day.

Men and women become more irritable under the sting of summer heat; they become more sensitive to the heat of the summer months in these lower states. There is a very definite relation between heat and violence. Heat in itself is a form of violence.

The law cannot safely be turned over to mobs in this country, no matter what crimes may be involved; and the people of these states should think of these

things as the weather warms, for these mob attacks upon the law are more frequent during hot weather when the blood is warm than they are in the cooler periods of the year.

LYNCHING AND THE LAW.

The lynching that occurred near Coxsburg in Crockett county on Wednesday, May 29, was a regretable thing, but an understandable one.

From the very beginning of civilization certain beastly crimes have brought summary and dire punishment on their perpetrators, when captured, and it will probably be many years yet before men have reached that effete stage of civilization where personal vengeance is left entirely out of their calculations, and a truckling dependence on law to protect their homes from invasion is the order.

It is not the law now that is making the home a castle and protecting the bodies of the womanhood of the country, but the fear of the consequences of acts of lust and vandalism. The beastly hordes of morons who walk our thoroughfares care little for the law, but they do fear the vengeance of the husbands, brothers or fathers of their intended victims. They know that good right arms and good firearms are more than likely to put a sudden quietus on their careers if they overstep certain bounds and they are deterred.

The lynching on Wednesday of last week was but the natural expression of a sentiment that has been shown throughout the history of this country. Red-blooded Americans will protect their women, truckling apologists to the contrary notwithstanding!

The expected happened on Thursday when the Memphis Evening Appeal and a few more papers of the same ilk began their usual tirade against the southern lynching spirit, as they term it.

Always these papers break out with gooseflesh when a lynching happens. It does not matter how horrifying the crime or how beastly the perpetrator, their sympathies always go out to the lynched and not to the victim of his lust and bloodshed. These papers are pandering to a low-flung sentiment in the north and east which would crucify the South at all hazards. They are intellectual bootlickers so to speak. Instead of telling the infamous Chicago Tribune and its contemptible followers to head to hades, they begin to whine and to upbraid.

This paper is not in favor of lynching. Certainly not. Lynching is a bad thing. But we are not going to cuss out our neighbors and friends when they take the law into their own hands and do a thing this writer would probably do single-handed and alone, if he were put in the position they were put in. The men who committed the lynching in Crockett were probably the friends and neighbors of the good lady who was so foully used by the negro man, who later suffered death at their hands. They were wrought up over the matter and they knew of the weakness and the delays of the law, so they dealt punishment summarily and direfully.

And after all, where does the law get its authority? From the people. The people set up laws and courts and penitentiaries and electric chairs, and then at times finding their formal plans all out of order, they rise up and re-assert their authority.

The lax enforcement of law is the chief cause of lynching. The people tire sometimes of having murderers, rapists and bandits being turned loose to continue their careers of crime, and then they overturn their own well-ordered plan of legal procedure (that does not proceed) and perform 100 per cent to their own enforcement.

The Memphis papers which have had so much to say about the crime of lynching, are coming to see a pretty kettle of fish in their own burg. Memphis has the world's record for homicides and, if the truth was established, probably also the world's record in failure of the law to punish! So much has been said in Memphis about the atrocity of lynching and so little about the atrocity of rape, that the latter crime has become common in that city and its environs. Decent men and women cannot safely drive upon the darker or lesser used highways at night, lest some rape fiend come out of the bushes and shoot the man and carry off the lady. So much for the editorials of the city press! These editorials might well be termed editorials for the encouragement of rape! They are certainly not causing the morons to flee in dismay!

There is one truth that ought to be heralded from every house top in America, and that truth is: There is nothing wholly good or wholly bad in all the operations of nature. Anything that is capable of great good, is in proportionate measure capable of great harm, and visa versa. This truth applies to wind, water, fire, narcotics, alcohol, laws, church and what not. All are good and all are bad just as they are used and just as they work out. The great trouble with our country today is the terrible reaction we suffer from the ideas of reformers. We are told the church is the only true refuge of the people, and yet ever and anon in the world's history, the churches gone wrong and in the hands of bad men, have nearly wrecked civilization. We are told to tamely submit to law, when history is but a story of legal crime. Men have groaned and sweated under cruel oppression of law through the ages. Narcotics are absolutely necessary to the well-being of mankind, when rightly used, but terrible when used wrongly, and so through the whole catalog.

Many of us are working tirelessly to forward education, and many are urging that education makes men better. It does not. The good man remains good with education and the bad remains bad. The good man can work more effectively being educated, the bad one can also work meanness more effectively being educated. Law against crime does not make one better, it is merely supposed to restrain bad men. If rigidly enforced, it does restrain in some measure, and if poorly enforced, it makes men worse.

So, bad as mob law is—a relic of a hard-boiled past—it is not much worse than the law, crazily enacted and laxly or foolishly or criminally enforced!

Lake City, Fla., Reporter
Friday, May 24, 1929.

ROTARY AND KIWANIS CONDEMN LYNCHING

The two following resolutions were adopted by the Rotary and Kiwanis clubs at their last regular noon day luncheons.

The Rotary resolution is as follows:

"Inasmuch as the law of our land, an dthe peace and dignity of our community have been shamefully and grievously violated, in the unlawful removal from jail and killing of a prisoner, therefore: Be it resolved by the Rotary club of Lake City, Florida, that such unlawful conduct be condemned in the strongest terms possible. That the legal authorities of our community be urged to use every resource at their command to bring to justice the perpetrators of this heinous crime. That every member of this club hereby pledges himself to assist in every way possible to attain this end. That a copy of this resolution be furnished the mayor of Lake City, to each of our local papers, and that a copy be forwarded to the governor of Florida and that each of the civic clubs of our city be requested to take similar action."

Signed,

The Rotary Club

The Kiwanis resolution is as follows:

Whereas on Thursday night last certain unknown parties took the w into their own hands and revolved a citizen from the city jail d killed him before he had been brought before any court for hearing; and whereas such acts of violence contradictory to the very purpose of law and subversive of all democratic government,

therefore be it resolved that the Kiwanis club of Lake City goes on record publicly as condemning all such acts of mob violence and we pledge our cooperation in all efforts to apprehend the guilty parties in his affair.

Signed,

The Kiwanis Club

Lynchings-1929

Federal Council of Churches, Reports on.

COURIER-NEWS
ELGIN, ILL.

MAR 27 1929

Ousting Judge Lynch

Encouraging progress in the work of wiping out lynching in the United States is reported in a bulletin from the commission of church and race relations of the Federal Council of Churches. During 1928 there were 43 states in which no lynchings took place—the highest number since statistics of this kind were tabulated, and, without doubt, the highest number in the history of the country. The number of victims of the mob in other states—eleven—was also the lowest in history. Lynch law is slowly dying out. The combination of enlightened public opinion and courageous officers of the law is cutting it down, year by year. It is not too much to hope that in the near future a lynching will be almost unknown throughout the United States.

SUN
VINCENNES, IND.
MAR 28 1929

Ousting Judge Lynch

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Conservative
BANGOR

MAINE

MAR 30 1929

A RECORD YEAR

Progress in the national campaign against lynching is reported by the Federal Council of Churches which finds that in 1928 there were but 11 lynchings, the smallest number recorded in any year since the annual compiling of records began. All of the five states in which lynchings were reported last year are in the South, with Mississippi leading with five cases of mob murder. Texas, Louisiana, Missouri and New Mexico were the other states in the dishonorable roll.

That there is an awakened public sentiment against lynchings is shown by the decreased number of deaths by mob violence and also by the fact that 24 attempts at lynching were prevented by the officers of the law. And the punishment that has been brought to members of some lynching parties is a distinct deterrent to this form of crime.

POST
VICKSBURG, MISS.

APR 5 1929

OUSTING JUDGE LYNCH.

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EXONENT
CLARKSBURG, W. VA

APR 12 1929

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TRIBUNE
LA CROSSE, WIS.

APR 15 1929

Ousting Judge Lynch

ENCOURAGING progress in the work of wiping out lynching in the United States is reported in a bulletin from the commission of church and race relations of the Federal Council of Churches.

During 1928 there were forty-three states in which no lynchings took place—the highest number since statistics of this kind were tabulated, and, without doubt, the highest number in the history of the country. The number of victims of the mob in other states—eleven—was also the lowest in history.

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TRIBUNE
KOKOMO, IND.

MAR 29 1929

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2877

MAR 29 1929

MOVEMENT TO ELIMINATE ALL LYNCHING IN U. S. GAINS

"Forty-three states were free from lynching during 1928 in comparison with 41 states the preceding year, 38 states in 1926 and 38 states in 1925," according to the Commission on Race Relations of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, in announcing its eighth annual Honor Roll of states free of lynching. "This is the largest number of states and the greatest territory of the nation ever free of lynching. The number of victims of the mob last year was also lower than in any preceding year since records have been kept."

"The Honor Roll for 1928 includes three states—Arkansas, Kentucky and Tennessee—which were restored to the roll because they were again free of the evil; although New Mexico,

which was on the Honor Roll in 1927, was removed because of the lynching of a Mexican," the Commission reports. "Of the eleven persons lynched last year, five were in Mississippi, two in Texas, two in Louisiana, one in Missouri and one in New Mexico. However, according to the record of Prof. Monroe N. Work of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, considerable vigilance was practiced in that twenty-four attempted lynchings were prevented last year—three of them in Northern and twenty-one in Southern states."

Commenting upon the progress made on this problem, Dr. George E. Haynes, Secretary of the Commission on Race Relations, said:

"America is slowly becoming a lynchless land. The reduction in the number of lynchings last year and the increase by two states of the territory free of this blot upon our democracy demonstrate the increasing pressure of public conscience upon those who take the law into their own hands."

"It now seems clear that public opinion should be focused more and more upon the few remaining states where lynching persists, and every encouragement and aid should be given to the law-abiding citizens and public officials in those states that are struggling to make law and order supreme and to suppress the tendency to mob violence."

"The number of lynchings prevented every year shows what can be done. We look to the newspapers, white and Negro, to the churches and to civic and religious leaders and organizations in this territory, as well as in other parts of the nation, to help bring this to pass. America must be a lynchless land to meet the eyes of the world without shame."

The Commission further reports the states free of lynching by years as follows:

States that have never had a record of lynching:
Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Vermont.
States that have no record of lynching since 1886:
Maine and New Jersey.

Frominent among the leaders of the Race seen at the session were Bishop R. C. Ransome of the African Methodist Episcopal church; Bishop George Clement, Louisville; Bishop C. H. Phillips, Cleveland; Bishop W. J. Walls, A. M. E. Zion church; Bishop L. W. Kyle of the A. M. E. Zion church; Rev. Harold M. Kingsley, Rev. J. C. Austin, Rev. M. C. Wright, Rev. H. W. Townsend of Nashville, Tenn.; Rev. G. P. David Lexington, Ky.; Rev. H. Griffin, Bishop J. W. Martin, Los Angeles, Calif.; Rev. M. L. Breeding, Dr. J. A. Thomas Evanston; Rev. Thomas H. White Jersey City, N. J.; G. W. Robinson Des Moines, Iowa; J. J. Oliver, Cairo Ill.; L. Douglas Burns, Milwaukee Wis.; O. C. Maxwell, St. Louis, Mo.; J. H. Henderson, Hot Springs, Ark.; William Rozier, Los Angeles, Calif.; Rev. W. M. Bennett, J. H. Smith, Dr. W. C. Howell, Wynne, Ark., and W. A. C. Hughes of the African Methodist Episcopal church extension board at Philadelphia.

MAR 28 1929

ousting JUDGE LYNCH.

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Lynch law is slowly dying out. The combination of enlightened public opinion and courageous officers of the law is cutting it down, year by year. It is not too much to hope that in the near future a lynching will be almost unknown throughout the United States.

NEW YORK EVE. TELEGRAM

MAR 29 1929
**BIG DECREASE
IN LYNCHINGS**

**Only Eleven in U. S. Last Year
—Twenty-four Attempts
Were Frustrated.**

Last year there were only 11 lynchings in the United States, and the 43 States in which there were no lynchings made the largest number to hold such a record in the history of the country, according to the Commission on Race Relations of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America.

In 1927 there were 41 States free from lynching, and in 1926 and 1925 there were 35.

Of the 11 lynchings, 5 were in Mississippi, 2 in Texas, 2 in Louisiana, 1 in Missouri and 1 in New Mexico. According to Professor Monroe N. Work, of Tuskegee Institute, 24 attempted lynchings were prevented last year, 3 in Northern and 21 in Southern States.

Lynchings have never occurred in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New

with Dr. George Haynes of New York, Katherine Gardner and Will W. Alexander, secretaries.

136 Leaders Present

One hundred and thirty-six leaders of the 36 constituent bodies of the Federal Council of Churches were in attendance at this annual meeting. All sessions, except the public meeting Thursday evening, were devoted exclusively to the consideration of concrete policies and program, with no formal addresses.

The session was opened Wednesday morning with President Walter L. Lingle of Davidson college, N. C., presiding. After a report of arrangements for the meeting by the Midwest committee of the federal council, of which Dr. Herbert L. Willet is chairman. Dean Mathews, former president of the Federal Council of Churches, extended welcome on behalf of the Chicago Church federation. The remainder of the morning service was devoted to reports of the year.

Rev. Albert W. Palmer, minister First Congregational church, Oak Park, led the service of worship at noon, with Prof. James A. Mund rendering the pipe organ selection "Crucial Problems in a Church Program of Research" and "How to Avoid the Trend of Industrial Workers From the Church" were discussed during the remainder of the day.

At the Thursday morning session the commission on race relations made a special report to the executive committee. The report presented by Dr. George Haynes was the result of the preliminary inquiry into the question of membership, communion and attendance of Colored and other non-white groups in churches composed mainly of white communicants.

The study undertaken to find out the nature of the problem of race relations in church membership and to see whether a thorough inquiry into this question was needed and of what kind it should be. Data and opinions were received from 36 local church leaders in 16 localities and 12 states, and opinions were summarized from 132 federal council associates residing in 33 states and the District of Columbia; also special reports were made from local investigations in three or four cities. This report covered at least ten denominations.

The report indicates that there has developed a separation along racial lines of white and nonwhite churchmen, as a condition of their development of a group church life; that now here is the beginning of contacts between these various racial church groups.

The commission recommended the following resolution: "That the research department be authorized to make, with the co-operation of the commission on church and race relations, an impartial and objective study of membership of different racial groups in local churches, in denominational and interdenominational bodies and the services of these groups."

Chicago, Ill.—The commission recommended the following resolution: "That the research department be authorized to make, with the co-operation of the commission on church and race relations, an impartial and objective study of membership of different racial groups in local churches, in denominational and interdenominational bodies and the services of these groups."

Churches Draw Color Bar

Color line should be broken down everywhere. If a man has the money he should be accorded accommodation in a Pullman car or at leading hotel convention; Rev. Harold M. Kings, pastor of Olivet Baptist church in Shreveport, La., told the min-

isters to preach more spiritualism and anydandism. He further urged that the color bar boys has the price of tuition and board, if one o meet the requirements of the Part of the work of the commission in this country," he de he should be admitted, no is administering the awards of the Harmon foundation for distinguishe Other speaker members of the Race. Among the 12 speakers, two were Chicagoans, Dr. Lacey Kirk Williams, pastor of Olivet Baptist church in Shreveport, La., told the min

increase by two States of the territory free of this blot upon our democracy demonstrate the increasing pressure of public conscience upon those who would take the law into their own hands. It now seems clear that public opinion should be focused more and more upon the few remaining States where lynching persists, and every encouragement and aid should be given to the law-abiding citizens and public officials in those States that are struggling to make law and order supreme and to suppress the tendency of mob violence.

The number of lynchings prevented every year shows what can be done. We look to newspapers, white and Negro, to the churches and to civic and religious leaders and organizations in this territory, as well as in other parts of the nation, to help bring this to pass. America must be a lynchless land to meet the eyes of the world without shame.

The commission further reports the States free of lynching by years as follows:

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lynching for the past 20 years: Michigan, Nevada, Indiana and Iowa.

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States that have no record of lynching for the past five years: California, Colorado, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Carolina, Washington and West Virginia.

States that have no record of lynching for the past two years: Alabama, Oklahoma, Ohio, Illinois, Utah, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina and Virginia.

States that have no record of lynchings in 1828: Arkansas, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Total States free of lynching in 1928, 42. Total States still having lynching in 1928, five.

Total number of lynchings in 1928, eleven.

FEDERAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
COMMISSION ON CHURCH AND
RACE RELATIONS.

New York, March, 28, 1929.

NO LYNCHINGS IN FORTY-THREE STATES DURING 1928 HONOR ROLL OF FEDERAL COUNCIL SHOWS DECREASE

New York, March 28—"Forty-three states were free from lynching during 1928," said the commission on race relations of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, in announcing its eighth annual Honor Roll of states free of lynching. This is the largest number of states and the greatest territory of the nation ever free of lynching. The number of states in the mob last year was also lower than in any preceding year since the records have been kept.

"The Honor Roll for 1928 includes three states—Arkansas, Kentucky and Tennessee—which were restored to the Roll because they were again free of the evil; although New Mexico, which was on the Honor Roll in 1927, was removed because of the lynching of a Mexican," the Commission reports. "Of the eleven persons lynched last year, five were in Mississippi, two in Texas, two in Louisiana, one in Missouri and one in New Mexico. However, according to the records of Prof. Monroe N. Work of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, considerable vigilance was practised in that twenty-four attempted lynchings were prevented last year—three of them in northern and twenty-one in southern states."

Commenting upon the progress made on this problem Dr. George E. Haynes, Secretary of the Commission on Race Relations, said:

"America is slowly becoming a lynchless land. The reduction in the number of lynchings last year and the increase by two states of the territory free of this blot upon our democracy demonstrate the increasing pressure of public conscience upon those who would take the law into their own hands.

"It now seems clear that public opinion should be focused more and more upon the few remaining states where lynching persists, and every encouragement and aid should be given to the law-abiding citizens and public officials in those states that are struggling to make law and order supreme and to suppress the tendency to mob violence.

"The number of lynchings prevented every year shows what can be done. We look to the newspapers, white and Colored, to the churches and to civic and religious leaders and organizations in this territory, as well as in other parts of the nation, to help bring this to pass. America must be a lynchless land to meet the eyes of the world without shame."

The Commission further reports the states free of lynching by years as follows:

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NEWS SAULTE STE. MARIE, MICH.

APR 11 1929

Ousting Judge Lynch

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During 1928 there were 43 states in which no lynchings took place—the highest number since statistics of this kind were tabulated, and, without doubt, the highest number in the history of the country. The number of victims of the mob in other states—eleven—was also the lowest in history.

Lynch law is slowly dying out. The combination of enlightened public opinion and courageous officers of the law is cutting it down, year by year. It is not too much to hope that in the near future a lynching will be almost unknown throughout the United States.

TIMES-HERALD
NORRISTOWN, PA.

MAR 29 1929

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JOURNAL
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Lynchings - 1929

Legal Punishment for Rape. Atlanta Fiend To Die For Crime

ATLANTA, GA., April 5.—(P)—Alvin E. Merritt, young married man and alleged "north side fiend" was convicted by a jury in Fulton Superior Court here late today and sentenced to death for criminal assault. The jury returned its verdict of guilty without a foreword after it retired to deliberate the case.

Merritt, his mother, sister and wife with an eight-months old baby in her arms, took the verdict calmly. Date of execution was set for Thursday, May 16.

Merritt was specifically charged with attacking a woman, a married woman, who yesterday identified him from the stand and described the attack in which her assailant forced her to do his bidding by threatening her with a pistol.

Merritt, who was indicted on a score or more of counts of criminal attack and robbery in connection with a near "reign of terror" in a substantial residence section several months ago, previously was convicted on a similar charge and sentenced from 13 to 16 years in prison.

Merritt's defense was his unsworn statement that recited his life from birth to his arrest.

"I never saw any of these young women," he said. "They are all making a horrible mistake. I am not the man."

ATTACKER OF WOMAN GETS DEATH SENTENCE

WAYCROSS, Ga., Sept. 12.—A sentence of death in the electric chair was imposed today by Judge M. D. Dickerson on Willie Bryant Negro, found guilty by a jury in Ware superior court of attacking a white woman of this county. The execution was set for October 4.

NEGRO ATTACKER TO GO TO CHAIR WITH MERRITT

Milledgeville, Ga., September 19.—(P)—Willie Bryant, negro, convicted of criminal assault in Waycross, is scheduled to die in the electric chair here on October 4, the same day set for the execution of Alvin E. Merritt, Atlanta white man, on a similar charge.

Bryant was held in the Valdosta jail for safe keeping prior to his trial and was tried in a heavily guarded courtroom which was cleared of all spectators. Immediately after his conviction he was brought here. So far as is known, no appeals have been filed in his case.

Geo. 9
B. Park, of the Ocmulgee circuit, denied application of the doomed man's attorneys for a writ of habeas corpus.

Immediately after the hearing, Solicitor-General Boykin, of Fulton county, said Merritt, who is now in Fulton tower in Atlanta, would be taken tomorrow before Judge Edgar E. Pomeroy for re-sentencing. The execution is expected to be set for September 20.

Sixteen affidavits were offered by Solicitor Boykin and his assistant, Ed A. Stephens, for the state, to contradict eight similar papers produced by Merritt's attorneys in an attempt to prove that the state's principal witness at Merritt's trial had not been sworn before giving testimony.

After Assistant Solicitor Stephens had called attention of the court to three supreme court rulings which held a trial could not be overthrown by defense after its conclusion due to failure to swear a witness, Judge Park announced that regardless of further facts in the case, he could not grant the application of Merritt's attorneys for a habeas corpus writ on such grounds.

W. A. Covington and M. A. Aller represented Merritt. The doomed man's mother, and his sister were present at the hearing, which began at 5 o'clock this afternoon. More than 500 people packed the courtroom to capacity for the hearing.

Merritt was saved from execution Friday when his attorneys obtained a temporary stay of execution from Judge Park Thursday night.

Merritt was tried and convicted on two charges of criminal assault on Atlanta women. He was given a sentence of 16 years at the first trial and on the second case, received the death penalty. The supreme court reviewed this latter case and declined to interfere with the lower court's decision.

The arrest of Merritt followed a series of assaults by men on Atlanta women over a period of six months. A special detail of plainclothes police spread over the residential sections of the city where the attacks occurred, usually late at night, was responsible for Merritt's arrest.

CONDEMNED MAN MAY BE BAPTIZED

Alvin E. Merritt, condemned to death for an attack upon a woman, may be baptized in a local church this week, it became known Monday.

Judge E. E. Pomeroy, of Fulton superior court, said that the Rev. G. C. Hinshelwood, of the Buckhead Baptist church, had called him up with reference to obtaining an order to allow Merritt to be taken to the church under guard for the baptism.

Judge Pomeroy indicated that if such an order was presented to him he would sign it. Merritt was returned to the tower several days ago from Milledgeville, after a rule nisi issued by Judge Park, of Madison, had been served on the warden of the state prison farm.

Atlanta Woman's Convicted Assaulter Again on Path to Electric Chair After Temporary Stay.

Madison, Ga., September 9.—(Special.)—The close of a six-hour hearing here shortly before midnight tonight saw Alvin Merritt, convicted of criminal assault on an Atlanta woman, again on the path which ends in the electric chair as Judge James

2896

Lynchings-1929

Legal Punishment for Rape.

Kentucky

2891

ALLEGED ATTACKER

SENTENCED TO HANG

MONTICELLO, Ky., Nov. 23.—(P)—Blueford Abbott was convicted by a jury here today of attacking a country school teacher, and his punishment fixed at death by hanging. Executions in Kentucky are carried out in the electric chair except in cases of attacks on women.

The young woman had told the jury that Abbott and his cousins, Ted and Roscoe Abbott, had come to the school last July ~~and took~~ ^{to get} away the children, and that Blueford Abbott had attacked her. He pleaded that he was drunk and did not remember what happened. At his first trial in September the jury disagreed.

Crowds that had jammed the Wayne county courtroom had dwindled to about 700 persons when the jury reported its verdict this morning after having considered the case since 8 a. m. yesterday, and Judge R. C. Tartar's formal pronouncement of the death penalty was heard quietly.

Abbott, who in his 24 years of life already has served two penitentiary terms for housebreaking, grew pale and nervous as he heard the verdict. He was ordered sent at once to Frankfort for safe keeping pending an appeal which his counsel announced would be filed.

Roscoe and Ted Abbott are expected to be called to trial at the special term of court beginning December 30.

Lynchings-1929

Legal Punishment for Rape

SPEEDY JUSTICE

IN LOUISIANA

Man Tried and Sentenced to
Die In Less Than
Two Hours *6/29/29*

NATCHITOCHES, La., June 27.—(By A. N. P.)—Jimmy Johnson, 25, was tried, convicted and sentenced to be hanged for attacking a young white girl in the Bayou Natchez territory near here two weeks ago, in less than 24 hours.

Owing to the indignation aroused by the crime and the fear by officials of possible trouble, Johnson was hurried away to another jail by Sheriff J. W. Payne after the trial for safekeeping, and the date of his execution will be set later.

Only one hour and 35 minutes elapsed from the impaneling of the jury to the sentencing of the defendant, whose only testimony was that he confessed to the crime. He showed no emotion except when Judge John F. Stephens sentenced him "to hang by the neck until dead, dead, dead." Then he drew one hand across his neck as if he already felt the tightening of the rope.

The girl identified Johnson as her assailant and other witnesses substantiated her testimony. The verdict of the jury, which was out only five minutes, was received in silence, although the court room was thronged. Defense attorneys merely sought to see that "no illegal evidence was introduced."

**NEGRO ATTACKERS
HANG TO THUMPS
OF BANJO DIRGE**

New Orleans, October 4.—(P)—The sole shrimps of a banjo hymn, two negroes, Edward McKay and William King, convicted of attacks upon white women, were hanged here today in the Orleans parish jail.

Each entered the death chamber in a procession led by a negro banjoist, a negro minister, the condemned with guards, and another banjoist bringing up the rear.

The negroes were convicted after a series of holdups of automobile parties in West End, New Orleans, when the negroes would rob the men and attack their women companions.

Louisiana.

2892

FOUND GUILTY OF ATTACK

Louisiana Negro Must Hang for
Assault on Girl.

RAYVILLE, La., Dec. 11.—One of the quickest court actions conducted in North Louisiana for some time was the trial of Henry Wilson, negro, today on a charge of assaulting a 15-year-old girl, living near Rayville. The negro was sentenced to hang.

The jury returned its verdict of guilty in 12 minutes. *12/12/29*

No motions were made for new trial and the proceedings will be completed as soon as possible. The governor will be asked to name a day for the hanging as soon as possible. No threats of violence were heard today as it seemed foregone conclusion that the death sentence would be imposed.

T. H. McGregor and T. R. Hodge, appointed by the court, defended the negro.

Wilson is now in the Rayville jail. It is not believed that there will be any demonstration since he has received the death penalty and no moves have been made to stay his execution.

ST. JOSEPH, La., Nov. 7.—After deliberating but twenty minutes, Bogue Victory, white farmer, was convicted in the 10th Judicial District Court here Monday of attacking a 15-year-old girl and sentenced to life imprisonment. Judge F. X. Ransdell, who presided, handed down the verdict.

Feeling between the races was at a strained point and scores crowded the courthouse corridors hours before the trial.

The story of the attack and the vicious crime was one of the most gruesome ever recorded here. Both sides of the case were listened to carefully by the jury after which they retired. In about twenty minutes they returned with a verdict of guilty.

The speed of the verdict and the extent of the sentence was one of the most unusual to occur in this section.

JURY OUT
TWENTY
MINUTES
11/9/29

MISSISSIPPI

Legal Punishment for Rape.

CONVICT IS RETURNED FOR JACKSON TRIAL

Death Penalty to Be Asked
on Rape Charge.

BY JOHN B. HUDSON.

Johnson City Appeal Staff Correspondent.

JACKSON, Miss., Jan. 14.—Wesley Redd, who is now serving a term of one year in the Mississippi penitentiary for grand larceny, will be returned to Jackson, Tenn., tomorrow to go on trial for his life in Madison County circuit court where he has been indicted on a charge of having criminally assaulted a seven-year-old girl.

The convict will be surrendered to Sheriff Exum of Jackson, who obtained an "indefinite suspension" and 30 days of two charges. Redd, following his trial, was taken back to the county jail and prisoner is to be prosecuted by county officials.

Attorney-General W. J. Murray of Jackson, Tenn., who has been after Redd since last September, wrote Dr. L. H. Fox, former superintendent of the penitentiary, that Redd had confessed to his guilt and Murray said he would seek the death penalty for him.

Redd, according to the correspondence, was a stranger in the community. He was daughter of Mr. Curtis came to the arrested after the alleged crime.

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Sheriff Exum left tonight for Parchman state farm, where Redd is serving his sentence, carrying learned that the negro had been transferred from the city jail to the strong, new county prison. Redd is to be returned to Mississippi immediately after his Tennessee trial, should he be acquitted. the conditions of the suspension stipulate.

GETS 25-YEAR SENTENCE

Prentiss County Jury Convicts Ac-

cused of Statutory Charge.

BOONEVILLE, Miss., Aug. 13.—In the circuit court here this morning a jury found Carlton Brady guilty of an attempted criminal assault and fixed his punishment at 25 years in the state penitentiary. This crime was alleged to have been committed in the fifth district of the county March 27 while Brady was on a visit to relatives. He had been a resident of Oklahoma. Officers here have been requested to arrest Brady on two charges of a similar nature alleged to have been committed in Oklahoma.

Roy Rhoades was also convicted

by a jury on a statutory charge, the victim being only 15 years of age. There are other charges pending against Rhoades growing out of the alleged fencing of stolen goods while he, Rhoades, was in the mercantile business here about two years ago. It is thought Rhoades will appeal his case.

A jury also found Roy Davis guilty of manufacturing liquor and he drew a sentence of three years in the penitentiary.

The grand jury has completed its investigations, finding 13 bills and has adjourned.

FINE NEGRO ASSAILANT.

Clarksdale Girl Identifies Boy Who

Seized Her at Door.

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Nov. 18.—Fennis Coaston, 17, negro, held in the Coahoma County jail following an attempted assault on two girls, was freed yesterday Monday morning and was given the maximum fine and sentence of \$100 obtained at "indefinite suspension" and 30 days of two charges.

Coaston, following his trial, was taken back to the county jail and will probably be prosecuted by county officials.

Coaston, an employee of a local drug store, is alleged, grabbed the small daughter of W. H. Skeahan when he left a package at her home and tried to drag her out on the porch. The girl resisted and he made his escape.

The negro, officers believe, is the same one who called at the home of R. G. Curtis and made a similar attempt when the 11-year-old

Tennessee community. He was daughter of Mr. Curtis came to the arrested after the alleged crime.

The negro was arrested later.

He acknowledged taking a package

to the Skeahan residence, but de-

clared he did not grab the girl. He was

last, began serving his sentence of

positively identified by the Skeahan

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Threats of mob violence subdi-

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Lynchings-1929

New Jersey

2894

~~Legal Punishment for Rape.~~
SWIFT JERSEY JUSTICE.

The dismissal of a Jersey City lieutenant of police from the force by Commissioner Beggans after a public trial before fifteen hundred persons in the City Hall, was a striking exhibition of the swiftness with which justice can act, when the occasion demands it. The charge was one which justified the summary action taken by the Commissioner, the police officer being convicted of having assaulted a young married woman who went to the station to complain about her husband abusing her.

In announcing his decision, Commissioner Beggans said: "Every mother, sister and sweetheart here has every right to walk into a police station and to walk out unmolested." That is good doctrine for a police head to preach and to enforce by his action, even if it required the dismissal of an officer of high standing. The fact that the woman was colored did not alter or affect the proposition. As the newspaper writer who brought the case to public notice said, "the same brutal treatment might have been accorded to anyone's wife."

When the complaint was first brought to the attention of the Police Commissioner, while taking the ground that it was inconceivable that an attack such as alleged could take place in any police station, he maintained that "the people of Jersey City are entitled to protection in every particular, and if any member of the department so far forgot himself and his oath of office, he should be punished to the fullest extent. It matters not what may be the creed or color of

Lynchings-1929

Legal Punishment for Rape
17 Year Old

Boy Dies in
Elec., Chair
7-6-29

RALEIGH, N. C., July 3—(A
NP)—The death chair at the state
prison claimed its youngest vic-
tim here Friday morning, when,
with his face radiating childish
fear and his lips moving in fur-
vent prayer, Fredie Wiley a 17-
year-old boy paid with his life for
criminal attack and attempting to
murder a white woman, some 3
months ago.

No appeal was made in behalf
of the youth who had confessed
to the crime with which he had
been charged. The governor did
not intervene. No plea was raised
for him on account of his youth.
He was tried, convicted and sen-
tenced. Alienists testified that
he was mentally sound and the
electrocution was carried out.
Only religious consolation was
given him, but that in abundance
by ministers here who were inter-
ested in seeing that his soul was
sevad.

Form Too Small for Chair

The death instrument which
had to this time claimed 96 vic-
tims who had transgressed against
society and the laws of the land,
proved too spacious for the boy-
ish form of its 97th victim. The
straps had to be shortened and
tightened in order to faster the
boy in the chair and frequently
he pleaded with those securing
him in the chair to loosen the
straps because they were too
tight. Had this been done the cur-
rent which was to snuff out his
life would have hurtled through
space due to his slight build.

When Fredie appeared in the
leath chamber he failed to show
composure of the hardened crim-
inal who is about to go to his
leath. His face was ashen with
fear and his body trembled like
a leaf as he walked unsteadily to
the death chair. His age, his boy-
ish fright and his slight build
showed his youthfulness. He
chanted a prayer, "Lord save me"
his chantly to appeal to the war-
dens to loosen the srtaps.

The fear which he showed had
been engraved in his face by the
long stay in the death cell, where

North Carolina.

2895

his impending doom was impress-
ed upon him by the ministers who
sought to give him the consola-
tion of the Master and by those
who passed by the cell and urged
him to pray. He prayed fervently,
asking of forgiveness of God for
the crime which man was taking
his life. He died with the prayer,
which had become his song "Lord
Save Me," on his lips.

The youth was charged with an
attack on a 31-year-old white wo-
man and attempting to beat her
to death. He was captured a few
hours later and is alleged to have
confessed to the deed.

ATTACKER IS EXECUTED

Second White Man in North Caro-
~~lina Dies in Death Chair~~

RALEIGH, N. C., Sept. 12.—
(AP)—Willis Buckner, 32, white
man, was electrocuted at the state
prison here today for attacking a
young girl. He was the second
white man in the history of the
electric chair in North Carolina to
be executed for this crime.

He had maintained his innocence
until this morning. After the exe-
cution prison officials announced
that he had confessed to a minis-
ter a few minutes before being led
to the execution chamber.

9-13-29
Murderer given

Lynchings - 1929

Legal Punishment for Rape BEN BESS FREED.

For 13 long years Ben Bess worked for the State as a convict. He would have had to work for 30 years had not the person who swore at his trial that he had criminally assaulted her signed an affidavit that he was innocent and that therefore her testimony was perjured. As a result of the affidavit, Bess was finally given an unconditional pardon by the Governor of the State, who suggested an investigation with a view of having the alleged victim prosecuted for perjury. The investigation being set in motion, the alleged victim recounted giving as a reason that she did not intend to say that Bess was innocent. Meanwhile Bess had voluntarily, on suggestion of the Governor, gone back to the penitentiary for his own safety, although even yet, no one has been able to find just where there was any danger to him threatened. However, after about 30 days Ben wanted to leave but this was refused. Habeas Corpus proceedings were then begun by Attorney N. J. Frederick of the Columbia bar for the release of Bess. Two days however before the Return to the Writ was to be made, the Governor attempted to revoke the unconditional pardon on the grounds that he had been misinformed. The matter was referred to the Master of Equity for Richland County to take testimony as to whether everything had been fairly and squarely done. The Master so found and reported his findings to the Circuit Judge. He was however overruled by the Judge and Bess was denied his freedom on the grounds that the pardon had been obtained by fraud. An appeal from this decision was made to the Supreme Court by Attorney Frederick and Mr. A. L. King, a prominent white attorney, whom attorney Frederick had associated with him in the trial.

The appeal was argued before the Supreme Court last November, but no decision was made. The questions raised by the appeal being of such grave importance, and en banc session of all the Circuit Judges was ordered by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. This session was held last Saturday when the appeal was again argued. After deliberations by a vote of 10 to 7 the Judges upheld the appeal of Bess and ordered that he be freed. The two major points sustained were, first, the question of fraud in the procuring of a pardon could not be raised on a habeas corpus proceeding, and second, the Governor cannot revoke an unconditional pardon when once issued, delivered and accepted. We believe that the best sentiment of this commonwealth agrees with The State which said editorially, discussing this case and another decided at the same en banc session, "In these decisions, the Court, in our opinion, acted in the interest of truth, justice and good government." Certainly, this decision means much to the colored citizens in their confidence in the Courts.

S. Carolina High Court Frees Bess

Columbia, S. C., Oct. 18.—Ben Bess, the man who served 13 years of a 30-year sentence for an alleged attack on a woman who last year confessed that she and her husband had lied to get possession of Bess' farm, Saturday won his long fight in the courts when the South Carolina supreme court en banc handed down an opinion reversing the decision of the circuit court

South Carolina.

judge who heard the case.

The court ordered the "prisoner released ~~without~~ ^{with} prejudice to the right of the state authorities to institute such proceedings as equity as they may be advised to secure a judicial determination of the issue of fraud in the procurement of the pardon."

Fight for Freedom

The case was argued before the supreme court and had nothing to do with the revocation of an alleged pardon issued by Governor Richards. The woman who accused Bess signed an affidavit to the effect that the testimony given at the trial 13 years ago was not true. Whereupon, Governor Richards gave Bess an unconditional pardon and the prisoner was set free. A little later when the woman faced a perjury trial she issued another statement that she did not understand what she was signing when she signed the first statement. The woman stated that she intended to say that she "forgave" Bess and not that he was not guilty. She also stated that she had been paid to sign the first statement by persons working in Bess' behalf.

On the basis of the second statement, Governor Richards revoked the pardon and Bess was placed in the penitentiary to finish out his term.

Governor Wrong

Habeas corpus proceedings were instituted by Bess' friends, it being contended that a pardon once issued could not be revoked, while the governor contended that a pardon issued through fraud could be revoked. Judge Townsend of the circuit court held that the pardon had been secured through fraud and the case was carried to the state supreme court. The supreme court decision in the case read: "The governor has followed an uncharted path and consequently has done wrong. After pardoning Bess and reincarcerating him, it is the same as if an individual had made a deed to property, and finding it had been obtained by fraud and deceit, repossessed himself of the property, without due process of law or by force."

BEN BESS GETS HIS LIBERTY BY COURT'S RULING

Columbia, Oct. 15.—One of the most unique cases in the criminal annals of South Carolina was recorded today when Ben Bess, a Florence County Negro convicted for a statutory crime and sentenced to serve 30 years in the state penitentiary, walked out of prison a free man through a legal technicality.

Bess was charged 13 years ago with attacking a white woman. The courts found him guilty and sent him to the penitentiary. There he

remained for 13 years while repeated efforts to have his sentence commuted failed.

Granted Pardon

Last spring the woman who prosecuted Bess signed affidavits that she had sworn falsely. Bess, according to her statement, was innocent. Public sentiment was aroused, and a petition asking for the Negro's release was presented to Governor Richards. The evidence was sifted, and a pardon granted. Bess was regarded as an object of pity, a man who had spent 13 years in prison for a crime of which he was innocent.

About two months later the woman made new affidavits stating that she had been paid \$50 to swear Bess had not committed the crime. She contended that her original court testimony was true, that she had signed the first affidavit in ignorance, believing it was merely a statement "forgiving" Bess, and that she could not read.

Goes North

Bess left the penitentiary today escorted by his attorneys, one a prominent white lawyer, the other a respected Negro lawyer of Columbia.

He is an old man and somewhat feeble, but he wore with a jaunty air the new suit of clothes given to him by prison authorities.

A smile wreathed his face. From his coat lapel hung a large crucifix purchased from a fellow prisoner who was sentenced to die for the murder of a Chinese laundryman in Charleston but later pardoned.

Bess said today he was not a Catholic. When asked if he would return to Florence County to live, he said he intended to go north.

This afternoon he boarded a train

2890
Governor's Pardon
Stands. 10-19-29
~~Execution Ind.~~
17 JUDGES SAT

Innocent Man Served 13 Years in Prison.

COLUMBIA, S. C.—A pardon once issued by the governor of a state cannot be revoked, the State supreme court ruled here late Saturday night by a vote of ten to seven.

There are nineteen circuit judges in the state. Seventeen of them deliberated on the case until late Saturday night. Two other members were disqualified.

As a result of this decision, Ben Bess who has served thirteen years of a thirty-year sentence on a white woman's perjured testimony, was set free again.

The woman, Maude Collins, 60, said Bess assaulted her. He was sentenced to prison for thirty years. Last year she admitted that Bess did not assault her. She made an affidavit to that effect, but withdrew it after she found herself likely to be jailed for perjury.

Bess, who was pardoned by the governor and freed from prison on the basis of the affidavit, was then returned to prison.

The N.A.A.C.P. protested and contributed \$300 toward the counsel fees.

Lawyers for Bess contended that a pardon once issued could never be revoked even if it were discovered by the governor that the pardon had been obtained by fraud. The supreme court agreed with them.

Bess was a prosperous farmer fifteen years ago and the Collins woman rented from him. His friends admit that he was intimate with her with her husband's consent.

ORDER OF COURT TO FREE NEGRO IN CAROLINA TODAY

Columbia, S. C., October 14.—(AP)—Attorneys for Ben Bess, Florence county negro whose contention that Governor Richards could not revoke a pardon given him was upheld by the state supreme court today, received a certified copy of the court's order for Bess' release from the state penitentiary.

The attorneys said the order would be presented tomorrow to prison officials.

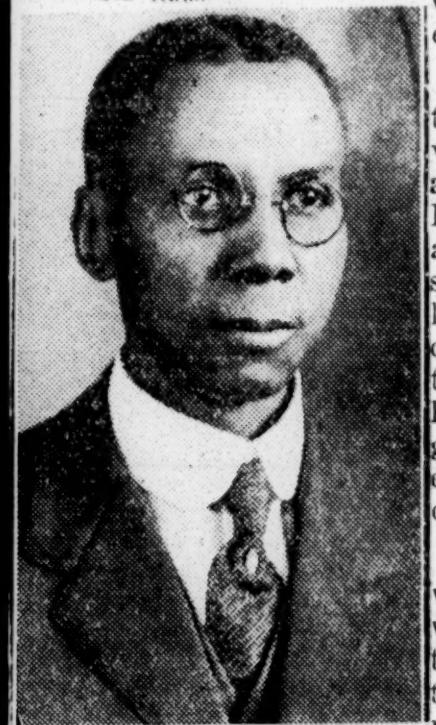
Bess, after serving 13 years of a 30-year sentence upon conviction of statutory charges, was pardoned when an affidavit signed by a woman he was alleged to have attacked and declaring he was innocent, was presented to the governor.

BEN BESS AGAIN FREED BY THE S. C. COURT

*Afro-American
Supreme Body Rules*

Later evidence tended to show the affidavit was secured through fraud and the chief executive revoked the pardon. Bess sought his release through habeas corpus proceedings and was upheld by the highest court of the state.

Governor Richards refused to say today whether charges would be brought against Bess as a result of the alleged fraud.



ROBERTS PHOTO, COLUMBIA, S. C.

VICTOR—Atty. N. J. Frederick of Columbia, S. C., whose fight won Ben Bess his freedom. Bess, accused of attacking a woman, had served 13 years when the white woman confessed he was innocent. The governor pardoned Bess then revoked the pardon. The state supreme court gave Bess his freedom, on the ground that the governor exceeded his authority.

Lenoir, N. C., News-Tape
Thursday, October 17, 1929

THE STRIKING CASE OF BEN BESS, NEGRO

Are you familiar with the striking case of Ben Bess? The latest chapter has been written and it seems to us an affair worthy of review here.

Ben Bess is a negro from Florence county, South Carolina. Thirteen years ago a white woman in that county was assaulted and she swore in court that Ben was guilty. Ben, then a negro of more than middle age, was sentenced to 30 years in the state penitentiary. There he remained until last year when the woman signed an affidavit swearing that Bess was innocent and that she had testified falsely against him. Public sentiment was aroused and the negro was released upon a pardon from Governor Richards. It appeared to be the end of a tragic case.

But last spring another chapter was written into this peculiar affair. The woman signed another affidavit, swearing that she could neither read nor write and that she thought her first affidavit was merely forgiving Ben Bess for the crime he had committed against her. She then said she had been paid \$50 to sign it. Whereupon Governor Richards revoked the pardon.

The case went again into the court. Attorneys for Ben Bess contended that a pardon could not be revoked, and on Tuesday the highest court in South Carolina upheld them. Ben Bess walked out a free man.

Whether or not Ben Bess committed the crime is for us to say. A jury found that he did. But what makes the case striking is the weakness of the whole story.

It sounds unreasonable from this distance that the great State of South Carolina would let a convicted negro go scott free without being positive that an illiterate prosecutrix knew what she was signing. And if the woman didn't know at the time of the pardon, which was discussed all over the nation, that she had signed an affidavit absolving Ben Bess from all crime, what came about at this late date to inform her of the error?

The whole affair smacks of startling inefficiency in our sister state to the South. They set a man free without being positive that the woman knew what she was signing. And then they see him remain free

through force of the law which says a person shall not be tried twice for the same offense.

Attorney N. J. Fredericks Gives History of Long Drawn Out Legal Fight To Save Ben Bess From Prison

Convicted On Womans' Charge of Assault, Declared Innocent After Serving 13 Years, Is Pardoned; Pardon Is Revoked

Columbia, S. C.—Following the decision of the South Carolina Supreme Court in its opinion handed down October 12, declaring that Governor Richards had no power to revoke the pardon granted Ben Bess on May 12, 1928, Bess was freed from the State Penitentiary on Tuesday, October 15, and left immediately for Pennsylvania.

Attorney N. J. Frederick, who was chief counsel for Bess throughout the long legal fight, has furnished a recapitulation of the case from its beginning in 1915.

Ben Bess was a successful farmer, living near Florence, and among his tenants were a white woman, Mrs. Maud Collins, and her husband.

On July 14, habeas corpus proceedings were started by Attorney Fredericks, but on July 15 Governor charged that Bess had made an criminal assault upon her person. On this charge, the colored man was given on "Misinformation." He was convicted and given a sentence of thirty years imprisonment in the State Penitentiary.

Served Thirteen Years

After he had served thirteen years of this sentence, the woman made an affidavit, declaring that her testimony was false and that Bess was innocent. This was on April 10, 1928, and on May 12, following, of nineteen Circuit Judges sitting—Gov. Richards issued an unconditional pardon to Bess because two were ineligible—and after several hours deliberation the opinion this affidavit after a petition to that was handed down denying that Governor had been presented by leading citizens, white and colored.

The Governor instituted an investigation with the view of having an en banc session of the Supreme Court, with seventeen Circuit Judges sitting—Gov. Richards issued an unconditional pardon to Bess because two were ineligible—and after several hours deliberation the opinion this affidavit after a petition to that was handed down denying that Governor had been presented by leading citizens, white and colored.

LIBERATED AT LAST



BENN BESS

Freed by State Supreme Court of S. C., despite Governor's effort to revoke pardon.

MADE FIGHT FOR BESS



N. J. FREDERICKS, ESQ.
Attorney at Law, who succeeded after long fight, in winning freedom for his client, Ben Bess.

South Carolina.

2888

Lynchings-1929 Legal Punishment for Rape

Bess Case Up Today

Palm Beach Leader
To Be Argued In
¹⁰⁻¹²⁻²⁹
En Banc Session
Palm Beach

The more or less famous case of Ben Bess will be re-argued Saturday morning at ten o'clock. Because of the importance of the question raised in this case which has been before the Supreme Court for about a year, the 14 Circuit Judges have been called in an en banc session with the Supreme Court to hear the case and help in making a decision. It will be remembered that Ben Bess is the Negro who was sentenced in 1915 to 30 years in the penitentiary, having been convicted of an alleged criminal assault on a white woman. After serv-

—o—
ving 13 years, the alleged victim sign
not guilty. Because of that Bess was “I AM glad to be free,” he said. “I
pardoned by the Governor who then just want to live quietly.”
suggested that the woman should be Mr. Bess is with relatives and
prosecuted for perjury as it was upon friends. With all of his horrid ex-
her testimony that he was convicted periences, he is not bitter.

Not liking that, the alleged victim then recanted, pretending that she didn't know what she was signing. The Governor then attempted to revoke his unconditional pardon and re-instate Habeas Corpus proceedings to have Bess freed. W. H. Townsend decided against Bess, whereupon Attorney Frederick, an associate attorney, made an appeal to the State Supreme Court. The case has already been argued, November 12, 1928, before the Supreme Court where it has been evaded, so an appeal was made to the Supreme Court, but no decision was

Supreme Court, but no decision was made. Finally October 12 an Em

Banc session of all the Circuit judges with the Supreme Court argued the case and the freeing of Bess was the result.

BEN BESS, MARTYR TO SOUTHERN INJUSTICE, LIVING IN HOMESTEAD

www.ijerpi.org | 10



BEN BESS

Tennessee

2889

Lynchings-1929

Legal Punishment for Rape.
~~MAN FRAMED IN
'RAPE' CASE TO
HAVE NEW TRIAL~~

FRANKLIN, Tenn., Oct. 9—APN

—Another chapter was written in the famous Thurgood Wright case here Wednesday when Judge Hobbs granted the defendant, convicted of raping a white woman at Centerville, a new trial.

This case has attracted nationwide attention. Wright has been accused and positively identified by the white woman in the case as the man who entered her home and assaulted her in the presence of her two daughters. Her daughters corroborated the statements of their mother only to deny them when evidence was produced, which showed that they were attending a party when the attack was supposed to have occurred.

Attorneys assisting the prosecution quit during the trial declaring that Wright was being framed and the ill feeling which had existed because of the deed turned into awe as the trial progressed. Testimony tended to bear out the sentiment of prosecutor's assistants that the man was being framed and when he was sentenced his attorney immediately filed a petition for a new trial.

When the petition was heard the new trial was granted without any protest on the part of the Attorney General. At the time of the previous trial state militiamen were called out to protect the prisoner but before the trial was over there was no need for their presence.

Lynchings-1929

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

LASHES FOR BRUTAL
AFRICAN FLOGGING

Africa

2879

Bethal, South Africa, April 6.—(AP)
A case described by the presiding judge as "horrifying in its cruelty" has ended here with a sentence of Jucke Nafte, black man of the village, to seven years hard labor and ten lashes for culpable homicide.⁷

It was said that Nafte had tied one of his native employes by the leg to a tree, head downwards and then thrashed him so severely that the man ~~died~~ ^{4/7/29} died.

In passing sentence the justice said that since Nafte had inflicted pain upon the native it punishment would be adequate unless it included the infliction of physical pain.

Lynchings-1929

Legal Punishment v. Lynchers.

PROBE BEGUN INTO NEGRO'S LYNCHING

Mob Takes Alleged Attacker Of

Young White Girl And Rid-
dles Him With Bullets

QUINCY, FLA., Nov. 10.—(P)—County and state officials began an investigation today into the lynching here last night of Will Larkins, negro, charged with an attack on a 12-year-old white girl by a mob of between 35 and 40 masked men.

Less than twelve hours after he had been indicted by a special grand jury and special term of court had been called for his trial, Larkins's body, bullet riddled, was dragged through the streets of Quincy, tied to the rear of an automobile. Later it was burned.

The shooting of the negro and the burning of the body took place at the scene of the attack, about a mile from here just off the Midway highway.

The negro was forcibly taken from Sheriff Gregory at the point of shotguns ten miles east of Madison, at 10 o'clock last night. The sheriff was taking Larkins to the Duval County jail, at Jacksonville, under orders of Governor Doyle Carlton, after the negro had previously been placed in the Madison jail for safe keeping following earlier mol threats.

According to the sheriff, he and his deputies stopped when the masked mob appeared before them on the highway thinking that an automobile accident had occurred. As they halted, an unidentified masked man pointed a shotgun at the officer and demanded the negro, explaining that there would be no trouble if Larkins was turned over to the mob.

Gregory said he told the man that he would not give up the negro. Then another man pointed his shotgun at him and repeated the demand of the negro. While they argued, Gregory said, other members of the mob seized Larkins and carried him away.

The sheriff said he did not recognize any members of the band.

Two hours after the negro was taken from the sheriff, he was carried back to the scene of the crime, and there, Gregory said, was literally shot to pieces. The dragging through the streets and the returning of the body to the crime scene for burning soon followed.

The girl was attacked last Friday as she was going home from school. Larkins is alleged to have been talking with a negro woman on the highway when she passed. He followed the child into the woods and attacked her, the sheriff declared.

Officers said the girl identified Larkins as her assailant.

Florida.

2880

TRIBUNE
PROVIDENCE, R. I.

NOV 11 1929
It seems easy to have a sheriff remove a Negro prisoner from one jail to another in Florida for "safety," and to have lynchers conveniently along the route to take the prisoner. Investigation follows, but the lynching is always by "parties unknown." There is no trail of dead men, because the sheriff almost never resists.

Lynchings - 929

Georgia

2881

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

INTERRACIAL BODY ASKS CONVICTION OF FLORIDA MOB

The commission on interracial co-operation through its director, Dr. Will W. Alexander, Monday addressed a telegram to Governor Doyle E. Carlton of Florida, relative to the lynching which took place at Quincy Fla., Saturday night.

The telegram follows:

Governor Doyle E. Carlton,
Tallahassee, Fla.

"Distressed to note your progressive administration marred by another lynching, the third in Florida this year, in a total of five for the whole country. This act of anarchy a serious blow at Florida's good name and a reflection upon the whole south. The honor of the state demands prompt apprehension and conviction of the perpetrators. However heinous the victim's crime, lynching can have no defense under a government of law. Its continuance stigmatizes our civilization and discredits our religious profession around the world."

"Signed commission on interracial co-operation.

"By Will W. Alexander, director."

In giving the telegram to the press, Dr. Alexander said:

12/29
A. Hark

"This latest outbreak of mob violence in Florida is very discouraging. For a number of years the south has been struggling to shake off the lynching habit, and with notable success. Ten states had lynchings in 1926, seven in 1927, five in 1928. So far this year lynchings have occurred in only three states, Florida, Mississippi and Tennessee and Florida has furnished three of the five victims."

Interracial Body Asks Conviction Of Florida Mob

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Lynchings-1929

Kansas.

2882

Legal Punishment by Lynchers.

MAN BEATEN BY GANG IN 1928⁺ IS AWARDED JUDGMENT AGAINST THE CITY

Verdict Is the Second Rendered Under
Ruling That Five Persons
Make a Mob

Case
According to a verdict rendered Monday in third division of district court, Samuel Chism, 2046 Springfield boulevard, who was beaten up by a gang of ruffians August 11, 1928, will receive \$300 and costs from the city of Kansas City, Kas. *10-11* The decision was based on the state mob law which states that five or more persons constitute a mob and that the victim may recover from the municipality.

Chism's Case
The petition of Mr. Chism states that while waiting for a street car at Thirteenth street and Quindare boulevard on August 11, 1928 about 11 p. m., he was set upon by a group of white boys and severely beaten. The man's eyesight is said to have been affected by the blows administered to the head. Four of the boys were arrested later and fined in police court.

Legal action against the city was instituted by Mr. Chism on February 13, 1929. The city in its answer to the petition of the plaintiff argued that it afforded police protection and that officers were patrolling the streets in the vicinity where the attack took place.

Mr. Chism is employed at Armour packing plant as a cement finisher. Illness resulting from the attack kept him from his work for four weeks. The plaintiff asked the court for \$4,670 and costs.

The Chism award of damages is the second decreed under the mob ruling within a year. A young man beaten up under almost identical circumstances received \$1,500 last fall.

Lynchings - 1929

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Shocks To Crude Notions

THAT class of Southern white men who have traditionally felt it perfectly safe to murder a Negro, at pleasure seem to be in for increasing shocks to their crude notions. According to reliable news dispatches two or three Southern states which have held to the notorious Judge Taney decision which says something abysmal about the rights of a white man and a Negro have recently performed the "first time" act in imposing life time and death sentences upon white men, convicted by juries of their white peers, for the murder of Negroes. Now Louisiana has performed its "first" capital conviction of a white man for the slaying of a member of the colored race.

REQUIRES TWO DAYS TO CONVICT

Verdict An Epoch-Making One For Louisiana

N. A. A. C. P. IN CASE Women Were Brutally Shot Christmas Day Last

New York, April 24—An epoch-making case has just come to a conclusion in Louisiana, with a white jury convicting white men of murder for the brutal shooting of four colored women at Eros, Louisiana, two of the women being killed outright and two of them maimed for life.

The shooting occurred on Christmas Day last, and was called to the attention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People by an editorial in the New Orleans States, entitled "A

Shocking Case." The trouble arose when a colored tenant charged by his landlord Mrs. J. Wingate, with the care of a valuable hunting dog, by white neighbors to whom it had been loaned. Subsequently a party of white men, including those to whom the dog had been loaned, went to the tenant's quarters, "some under the influence of liquor," and found the tenant's wife, four daughters and a grandchild.

Words passed between the white men and the colored woman and the women were ordered to stand in line and be shot. The women, thinking the white men were joking, made no effort to escape. Thereupon the white men opened fire, killing a girl of 15, another of 20 with a baby in her arms, gravely wounding a third daughter of the tenant and hitting the mother in the shoulder.

N. A. A. C. P. Extends Aid

The facts were substantiated by the N. A. A. C. P. and aid extended in prosecuting the murderers. With the co-operation of Dr. George W. Lucas, President of the New Orleans Branch of the N. A. A. C. P., communication by telegraph and long distance telephone was maintained with the scene of the crime, the Association's Assistant Secretary, Walter White, having gone South for this purpose.

The N. A. A. C. P. appropriated \$250 toward the legal expenses of this case, enabling the retention of a good lawyer to prosecute the murderers of the women.

Four Days Trial

A letter written to Dr. Lucas, from the scene of the trial, thanking the N. A. A. C. P. for the assistance given, states:

"It took them four days on the case. They drew 100 men before they could get a jury. They stayed in the jury room about a day after they heard the evidence. Part of them wanted to hang the two that did the killing and part wanted them to go to the pen. So the verdict was life in prison."

"Dr. Lucas says that was the first case that has ever been stuck (won) in this parish or anywhere close to here, of this kind. It generally turns out that they come clear where a white man kills a colored person. Dr. Lucas this has been the best help to the colored race that has ever happened in this country for everybody that heard of it was there to hear the trial. So next time a fellow starts to kill a colored person he will see how these two men came out."

"Dr. the help I did and what you all helped, was what did the work. For the lawyer we had sure did work hard to stick them. He made the court summon 100 men before he could get the 12 he wanted."

The outcome of the case has been the subject of a commendatory editorial in the New Orleans States of April 16th.

The case is regarded by the N. A. A. C. P. as indicating a most gratifying change in sentiment in the South in that a Louisiana Court will convict white men for the murder of colored people.

Louisiana.

N.A.A.C.P. HELPS TO CONVICT LYNCHERS

NEW YORK — What is regarded as an epoch-making case in its fight for justice culminated last week when a jury of white men in Louisiana convicted white men for the brutal murder of four race women in Eros, Louisiana, Christmas day.

The killing occurred when a group of whites, who had had some words with a tenant over a dog, went to his home and found the women alone. After some parley they were ordered to line up and be shot. Among those killed was a fifteen-year-old girl with a baby in her arms.

The national body took up the case, appropriating \$250 to the local branch headed by Dr. George Lucas. One hundred white jurymen were called and after a day's deliberation, the men were convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment.

LOUISIANA MEN ARE CONVICTED OF SLAYING WOMEN

Life Imprisonment Verdict Is Returned By Jury In Murder Case

Counsel Fees

NEW YORK, April 24.—An epoch-making case has just come to a conclusion in Louisiana, with a white jury convicting white men of murder for the brutal shooting of four colored women at Eros, La., two of the women being killed outright and two of them maimed for life.

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"some under the influence of liquor," and found the tenant's wife, four daughters and a grandchild.

Ordered in Line

Words passed between the white men and the colored women and the women were ordered to stand in line and be shot. The women, thinking the men were joking, made no effort to escape. Thereupon the white men opened fire, killing a girl of 15, another of 20 with a baby in her arms, gravely wounding a third daughter of the tenant and hitting the mother in the shoulder.

The facts were substantiated by the N. A. A. C. P. and aid extended in prosecuting the murderers. With the co-operation of Dr. George W. Lucas, president of the New Orleans Branch of the N. A. A. C. P., communication by telegraph and long distance telephone was maintained with the scene of the crime, the Association's Assistant Secretary, Walter White, having gone south for this purpose.

The outcome of the case has been the subject of a commendatory editorial in the New Orleans States of April 16.

The case is regarded by the N. A. A. C. P. as indicating a most gratifying change in sentiment in the South in that a Louisiana Court will convict white men for the murder of colored people.

WHITE KILLER IS SENTENCED IN LOUISIANA

Fairness Of Landlord Aided In Conviction

TWO WOMEN ARE WANTONLY SLAIN

Punishment For Crimes Against Negroes Unheard In Locality

New York.—One of two white men, sentenced to prison in connection with the wanton murder and wounding by shooting of colored women in Eros, Louisiana, has accepted his conviction and sentenced without further appeal, and has gone to jail, according to reports sent to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The N. A. A. C. P. has sent its final check, covering its indebtedness in the case, on which it has

spent \$300 in all, financing from beginning to end the prosecution of the murderers.

The case attracted nation-wide attention, inasmuch as the conviction of white men for shooting and killing colored people was virtually unheard of in that part of Louisiana. The N. A. A. C. P. was able to proceed so effectually because of the resolute and courageous stand taken by the white landlord of the colored victims, E. D. Wingate, who from the outset declared his determination to prosecute the murderers and fought the case through until they were convicted and sentenced. The N. A. A. C. P. stood by Mr. Wingate from the beginning of the case, and enabled him to retain competent lawyers.

Secretary Says

In connection with the outcome of the case, James Weldon Johnson, Secretary said: "This is an instance in which the N. A. A. C. P. and a justice-loving white man in the South have stood and worked together, to vindicate human rights, justice and decency, against the wanton and brutal assaults of lawless bullies. Mr. Wingate, on the ground with the most commendable courage and determination, fought this case through. He was enabled to do so, by the funds which the N. A. A. C. P. made available, so that good lawyers could be retained. The resulting conviction of the white murderers of unoffending colored women, must be a source of gratification to all who want impartial justice in all parts of the country, the far South as well as the North, for all citizens irrespective of color."

2887

Louisiana Jurors Give Slayers Life Sentences

New York.—(ANP)—An epoch-making case has just come to a conclusion in Louisiana, with a white jury convicting white men of murder for the brutal shooting of four colored women at Eros, Louisiana, two of the women killed outright and two of them maimed for life.

The shooting occurred on Christmas Day last, and was called to the attention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People by ~~and to a~~ in the New Orleans States entitled "A Shocking Case." The trouble arose when a Negro tenant, charged by his landlord, Mrs. J. Wingate, with the care of a valuable hunting dog, was refused the dog by white neighbors to whom it had been loaned. Subsequently a party of white men, including those to whom the dog had been loaned, went to the Negro tenant's quarters, "some under the influence of liquor," and found the tenant's wife, four daughters and a grandchild.

Murder
House
Day

Words passed between the white men and the colored women and the women were ordered to stand in line and be shot. The women thinking the white men were joking, made no effort to escape. Thereupon the white men opened fire, killing a girl of 15, another of 20 with a baby in her arms, gravely wounding a third daughter of the tenant and hitting the mother in the shoulder.

The facts were substantiated by the N. A. A. C. P. and aid extended in prosecuting the murderers. With the cooperation of Dr. George W. Lucas, president of the New Orleans branch of the N. A. A. C. P., communication by telegraph and long distance telephone was maintained with the scene of the crime, the association's assistant secretary, Walter White, having gone South for this purpose.

The N. A. A. C. P. appropriated \$250 toward the legal expenses of this case, enabling the retention of a good lawyer to prosecute the white murderers of the colored women.

A letter written to Dr. Lucas, from the scene of the trial, thanking the N. A. A. C. P. for the assistance given, states:

"It took them four days on the case. They drew 100 men before they could get a jury. They stayed in the jury room about a day after they heard the evidence. Part of them wanted to hang the two that did the killing and part wanted them to go to the pen. So the verdict was life in prison.

"Dr. Lucas that was the first case that has ever been stuck (won) in this parish or anywhere close to here, of this kind. It generally turns out that they come clear where a white man kills a colored person. Dr. Lucas, this has been the best help to the colored race that has ever happened in this country for everybody that heard of it was there to hear the trial. So next time a fellow starts to kill a colored person he will see how these two men came out.

"Doctor, the help I did and what you helped, was what did the work. For the lawyer we had sure did work hard to stick them. He made the court summon 100 men before he could get the 12 he wanted."

The outcome of the case has been the subject of a commendatory editorial in the New Orleans States of April 16.

The case is regarded by the N. A. A. C. P. as indicating a most gratifying change in sentiment in the South in that a Louisiana court will convict white men for the murder of colored people.

Legal Punishment of Lynchers. NEW YORK Illustrated News

JAN 2 1929

UNKNOWN CAUSES' VERDICT IN MISSISSIPPI LYNCHING

Jackson, Miss., Jan. 2 (U.P.)—After a coroner's jury had found that Charles Shepherd, 41, colored convict burned at the stake by a mob near Parchman late Monday, "had come to his death from unknown causes," Gov. Theodore G. Bilbo today announced he would take no action in the lynching.



Theodore
G. Bilbo

Shepherd was lynched after he had confessed killing J. D. Duvall, 60, prison guard, and abducting and assaulting his beauty prize-winning daughter, Ruth, 18.

A telegram of bitter reproach was dispatched to Gov. Bilbo yesterday by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for his refusal to order investigations of two lynchings occurring in that state within the last week.

"Mississippi again stands pilloried before the civilized world," the message read in part, "as the plague spot of lynching in America. You and the lynchers you encourage are the best possible argument for a federal anti-lynching law."

Copies of the message were sent to President Coolidge and the presiding officers of both houses of congress.

Bilbo Calls Crime "Blot on Fair Name of County."

Hattiesburg, Miss., January 10.—(P)—The Forrest county grand jury, which has been investigating the lynching of Emanuel McCallum, negro, for four days, adjourned today after branding the crime as "a blot upon the fair name of Forrest county."

In its report to Judge Robert S. Hall, the jury expressed a desire to resume the investigation when other witnesses now available are within reach of legal process and recommended that the next grand jury continue the effort to identify the killers.

During their examination of 42 witnesses the jury report said it had been established that McCallum was not the negro who hit the white man on the head. Their belief was that another negro, yet unidentified, struck the man in a fight and fled to parts

The grand jury adjourned subject to call by either the foreman, W. O.

unknown shortly after McCallum was lynched.

The special session was requested after a citizen's mass meeting of protest.

PARCHMAN LYNCHING PROBE IS UNLIKELY

Burning of Negro Apparently Settles Case.

BY PRESTON WILLIAMS,

Commercial Appeal Staff Correspondent.

JACKSON, Miss., Jan. 1.—The case of the state of Mississippi against Charles Shepherd, negro

Parchman trustee, has been appar-

ently settled with the burning of

the body of the negro at the

Parchman plantation last night, near where

he turned back Friday 18, loose,

after having forced her to accom-

pany him on a 30-hour march

about the plantation. Previous to

this forced march, he had murder-

ed her father in one of the most

fiendish crimes in the history of

the state.

Gov. Theo. Bilbo, returning to-

day from Tennessee, where he ac-

companied his son to school, tersely

dismissed any gubernatorial action

with the statement that he had

"neither the time nor money to in-

vestigate the actions of 2,000 men."

Judge S. F. Davis, at Indianola,

tonight said that he had received

no request to convene the Sunflow-

er Circuit Court in special session

and that such a special term would

be impossible in less than 21 days.

"I do not think that a special ses-

sion would be of much avail," he said.

"It would be hard to obtain an

unbiased grand jury in Sunflow-

er County. I have court terms that

will carry me until the middle of

March when the regular session of

the grand jury for Sunflower Coun-

ty will be held. There will prob-

ably be some sort of an investiga-

tion then, but I fear that there will

be no action taken."

Judge Davis is confined to his

bed with the flu at Indianola. He

will open court in Washington

County at Greenville Monday.

NEW YORK TIMES

JAN 2 1929 GOV. BILBO OPPOSES LYNCHING INQUIRY

Says He Has No Time or Money
to Investigate 2,000 Persons

MISSISSIPPI

in Mississippi Burning.

JACKSON, Miss., Jan. 1 (AP).—Unless the courts take a hand, the curtain has been rung down on the crimes of murder, abduction and lynching that have rocked North Mississippi since Thursday.

Arriving here tonight, Governor Theodore G. Bilbo, announced that no investigation of the burning at the stake of Charley Shepherd, negro convict, slayer and abductor, would be made at his instigation.

"I have neither the time nor the money to investigate 2,000 people," he said.

Telegrams poured into the Governor's office during the day urging him to investigate the lynching.

Arthur Jordan, District Attorney, indicated he might call for a grand jury investigation. He declared he "would get in touch" with Judge S. F. Davis at Indianola, in whose jurisdiction the lynching took place. His announcement followed a coroner's inquest at which it was decided that the negro "came to his death from causes unknown."

Governor Bilbo passed through Parchman today while driving from Bell Buckle, Tenn., and viewed the body of the mob's victim. It had been brought in by Dr. McDavid, prison physician, who removed it from the funeral pyre near Drew, wrapped in a tarpaulin, and had it interred in the prison cemetery.

Governor Bilbo said he authorized the calling out of troops to search for the negro when he passed through Parchman Saturday on his way to Tennessee. He said he offered Super-

intendent L. T. Fox, of the penitentiary, the entire Mississippi militia if necessary, as the state could not afford to let the perpetrator of such a crime go free.

"No request was made for troops to guard the negro after he had been captured either by the prison super-

intendent or sheriffs in the counties through which the black was carried," Governor Bilbo said. "If such a request had been made by a person au-

thorized to do so, I would have granted it."

The coroner's jury today returned the penitentiary the entire Mississippi militia if necessary, as "the causes." "We, the coroner's jury, State could not afford to let the per-

petrator of such a crime go free," Charley Shepherd, convict No. 1381, "No request was made for troops to guard the negro after he had been captured, either by the prison super-

intendent or sheriffs in the counties through which Shepherd was car-

ried," Governor Bilbo said. "If such a request had been made by a per-

son authorized to do so, I would have granted it."

**Bilbo Balks
At Probe Of
Mob Action**

Jackson, Miss., January 1 (AP).—Unless the courts take a hand, the curtain has been rung down on the crimes of murder, abduction and lynching that rocked north Mississippi for the last several days.

Arriving here tonight, Governor Bilbo said that no investigation of the burning at the stake of Charley Shepherd, negro convict, slayer and abductor, would be made at his instigation.

"I have neither the time nor the money to investigate 2,000 people," he said. Telegrams poured into the governor's office during the day urging him to investigate the lynching. Some of the messages came from members of the recent mass meeting at Hattiesburg, Miss., where they voted to request an inquiry into another negro's lynching that resulted in the calling of a grand jury for next Monday.

2886

JAN 2 1928
A Governor Out of Step

The Governor of Mississippi says that he has "neither the time nor the money" to investigate the lynching of Charles Shepherd at Parchman on December 31. The Governor had time—and he was not worried about the expense—to offer the entire state militia to catch Shepherd after he escaped from the penitentiary; he also had time to stop at Parchman after the crime and to view revelation could no farther go. Comment is superfluous. Of such is the philosophy of dark-public and riddled with bullets.

The Governor of Mississippi is out of step. A mass meeting at Hattiesburg, in his own state, has just demanded an inquiry into another lynching of another Negro. The Governors of other states in the South realize that it is a blot upon their states and upon their gubernatorial régimes when men are burned alive and no one is punished. The New South hates lynchings even more than it despises Yankee criticisms of them, and lynchings have dropped from an average of sixty-nine a year in the five years just after the Civil War to eleven in 1928. Mississippi, to its shame, accounted for five of those eleven. Governor Bilbo does an ill service to his state when he refuses to act against this mob orgy; the chief effect of his contempt for law is likely to be to encourage those who doubt that the state will ever clean its own back yard and call for Federal action.

BROOKLYN EAGLEJAN 2 1928
MISSISSIPPI'S DISGRACE.

When a living, breathing human being accused but unconvicted of a crime is seized by a mob, tied to a stake, drenched with gasoline and burned alive, the modern world is justly shocked. Such things do not happen or take place in the wildest corners of the far-flung British Empire. They do not happen or take place in Russia or in Japan. They happen or take place in Christian America.

Just such an illustration of our backward civilization in the State of Mississippi was laid before American newspaper readers on New Year's Day. The victim of medievalism was a negro—of course. He may have been guilty of the murder and abduction charged. The world has no way of knowing. Guilty or innocent, he was entitled to a fair trial, and in his State, where white men make up the juries, if proven guilty he would have met a deserved fate under the processes of law.

The State of Mississippi had furnished three of the lynching cases of 1928 out of a total of ten reported ten days before the year ended. It has now furnished a fourth, with cruelty more horrible than any of the others displayed. The

disgrace is Mississippi's. The responsibility is meeting at Hattiesburg, Miss., west Mississippi last Thursday night. Governor Bilbo's. The Governor owns that he called out troops to catch the alleged criminal. He owns that he did not call out troops to prevent a lynching. Nobody asked him to do so. Monday.

"If such a request had been made by an authorized person I would have granted it."

Asked what form the investigation would take, Governor Bilbo replied curtly: "I have neither the time nor the money to investigate 2,000 people." In other words: "Charge it up toola, in whose jurisdiction the

escaped from the penitentiary; he also had time to stop at Parchman after the crime and to view revelation could no farther go. Comment is

superfluous. Of such is the philosophy of dark-public and riddled with bullets.

**NEW YORK
Illustrated News**

JAN 2 1928

GOVERNOR HASN'T LYNCHING WILL NOT TIME OR CASH TO BE INVESTIGATED PROBE LYNCHING

Jackson, Miss., Jan. 1 (AP).—Unless the courts take a hand, the curtain has been rung down on the

N. Y. SUN

JAN 2 1929

GOVERNOR HASN'T LYNCHING WILL NOT TIME OR CASH TO BE INVESTIGATED PROBE LYNCHING

Mississippi Governor Sees Inquiry as Useless.

JACKSON, Miss., Jan. 2 (A. P.).—Gov. T. G. Bilbo's official notice of the lynching Monday night of Charley Shepherd, convict killer and kidnaper, was his announcement that he would not instigate an investigation into the torturing to death of the negro by a mob.

"I have neither the time nor the money to investigate two thousand people," the Governor said in reply to telegrams of protest reaching his office. Arthur Jordan, District Attorney, however, today was considering a call for a grand jury investigation.

National guard officers leading searchers in the hunt for the negro were ordered back by Adj't.-Gen. J. M. Hairston when word was received that the negro had been taken.

Gen. Hairston said the troops were requested to aid in capturing the murderer of J. D. Duvall, carpenter sergeant at the State prison farm, and if possible to deliver him to the law.

To this request Gov. Bilbo added that if a request had been made to guard the negro after his capture by a person authorized to do so he would have granted it.

The verdict of the Coroner's jury was that Shepherd came to death "from causes unknown to this jury." His burned and mutilated body was buried in the prison farm cemetery after lying at the pyre ruins for hours.

The mob which raced over north



Ruth L. Duvall.

crimes of murder, abduction and lynching that have rocked northern Mississippi since last Thursday.

Arriving here tonight, Gov. Theodore G. Bilbo announced no investigation of the burning at the stake of Charley Shepherd, colored convict slayer and abductor of Ruth Duvall, would be made at his instigation.

"I have neither time nor the money to investigate 2,000 people," he said.

Telegrams poured into the governor's office during the day urging him to investigate the lynching. Some of the messages came from members of the recent mass

west Mississippi last Thursday night when the convict trusty killed the man that resulted in the calling of a grand jury for next Saturday morning with her story of ill treatment by the slayer.

**JURY ACQUITS
MISS. OFFICER
IN LYNCHING**

Deliberates Only 6 Minutes

LEXINGTON, Miss., May 15—(ANP)—After deliberating only six minutes, a jury acquitted John Pat Malone, white, peace officer of Harland's Creek, of the murder of Rufus Hicks, who was killed by a mob on the night of December 14.

According to testimony offered during the trial, the arrest of Hicks was made by Malone and W. C. Taylor on a minor charge of theft. While in their custody, it was declared by witnesses, a party of citizens haled the officers on the road after dark and fired several shots into the car killing the prisoner, then seized the body and dragged it for two miles in the public roads. It was said Hicks was wanted for alleged remarks made about a white woman. Owing to darkness the officers were unable to identify the members of the mob.

MOB VICTIM'S FAMILY SUES

BILOXI, Miss., June 13.—(A. N. 2.)—One of the most interesting damage suits on the docket of the Federal court, and first of its kind filed here, is that of Jeannie Mac Bearden, her mother-in-law and her children, against Martin Brister, sheriff of Lincoln county, and the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company, surety on his bond, in which plaintiffs seek \$10,000 damages for the killing of Stanley Bearden, husband, son and father of the plaintiffs, by a mob in Brookhaven, June 25, 1928. It is alleged the killing was due to negligence of the sheriff.

WHITE MAN WHO TOOK PART IN MOB GIVEN FREEDOM BY JURY

HAZELHURST, Miss., Dec. 4—(CNS)—The jury in the case against Speck Sandifer, white, charged with killing Mose Taylor at George town June, brought in a verdict of no guilty Monday. The jury had deliberated for six hours.

Taylor was killed after he had been arrested and was preparing to make bond before the mayor's court. It was said that a workman took hold of him and carried him off. The body was found two days later in a field nearby. The killing is alleged to have occurred over a trivial fuss which Taylor's daughter had with some white boys a few hours before and when Taylor came into the fray he was arrested and shortly afterward was killed.

Sandifer testified for himself and said he did strike Taylor but was not present a few minutes after when he was killed. John Spence, workman on a building near by, testified that he saw Sandifer when he struck Taylor but that Sandifer came to where he was immediately and did not participate in the shooting.

Lynchings - 1929

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.
INVESTIGATE LYNCHING.

Crockett Grand Jury to Look into
Matter.

JACKSON, Tenn., May 30.—While no definite steps have been taken at this time toward an investigation of the lynching of Joe Boxley, 29-year-old negro who was taken from the Crockett County jail at Alamo early yesterday morning and hanged at a place a few miles west of Humboldt by the mob who believed him guilty of a criminal assault on Mrs. Johnnie James, wife of a magistrate, the matter will be taken up by the Crockett County grand jury in the usual manner, it was said this afternoon by ~~Memphis~~ ^{General} G. C. Sherrod from his home at Humboldt.

General Sherrod said that he had not been in communication with the sheriff of Crockett County since the affair occurred, but that the matter would rest until the next session of the grand jury, when the investigation would be conducted in the usual manner.

General Sherrod was in Brownsville attending the Haywood criminal court session when the lynching took place and said today that so far as he knew no steps had been taken in the matter at this time.

Tennessee

2883

Lynchings-1929

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.
NEWS TRIBUNE
WACO, TEX.

File of Information
On Texas Lynching
Is Reported Missing

HOUSTON, Tex., March 23.—(P)—
A grand jury investigation was in-
stituted Saturday when it became
known that the district attorney's
file of information on the lynching
of Robert Powell, a negro, has been
missing since the trial of one of sev-
en defendants last August.

Horace Soule, former district at-
torney, and Captain of Detectives
Tom Shelley were questioned about
the missing papers which included
purported confessions of four of the
defendants. Captain Shelley said he
had duplicate copies of the confession
and other information.

The hanging of Powell a few nights
prior to the opening of the Democra-
tic national convention here attracted
nationwide attention. The negro was
lying in a Houston hospital suffering
from gunshot wounds received in a
fight with a detective when taken
away by several men and lynched.
Seven men were indicted. One case
was dismissed, another man was ac-
quitted and others are awaiting trial.

TRIBUNE

Nov 26 1929
New Witnesses
Questioned in
Lynching Case

Eastland, Tex., Nov. 26.—(P)—
Having questioned more than 80
people as to their knowledge of the
lynching of Marshall Ratliff, bank
robber, a week ago, the grand jury
questioned a new list of witnesses
today in its effort to fix responsibil-
ity for the mob outburst.

No indications were given as to
when the inquiry would end, or as
to the possibility of indictments.
County authorities yesterday were

Texas,

MOBILE, ALA.
Register

NOV 26 1929

NOV 21 1929

Investigation of Lynching THAT TEXAS LYNCHING

Many witnesses Examined by Eastland Grand Jury seem to have been a rather cold affair. It may be that this world will be better off without the presence of a score of witnesses questioned today by a special Eastland county grand jury investigating the lynching here last Tuesday of Marshall Ratliff, bank robber. Approximately 80 witnesses have been called before the inquisitorial body, and others were to appear before the jurors tomorrow.

A telegram was received by County Attorney Joe H. Jones from Attorney General Robert Bobbitt offering any aid his department might render, and adding that Eastland county authorities seemed to have the situation well in hand.

TRIBUNE

Salient Points
Nov 22 1929
Probe of
Lynching
UnderWay

Eastland, Tex., Nov. 22.—(P)—Told by local authorities and by the state's highest official that "lawlessness to end lawlessness is never condoned," a grand jury today launched an investigation of the lynching of Marshall Ratliff, condemned Cisco bank robber.

Details of organization were completed by the jury yesterday preparatory to taking first testimony. On the eve of the jury's session, Governor Dan Moody sent a message declaring "the compounding of crime cannot be condoned," and saying he hoped "the perpetrators of the regrettable crime" were brought to justice.

District Attorney Joe H. Jones announced his office had prepared a list of 75 names of persons to be called before the jury. Jones, a nephew of the man Ratliff wounded fatally in a break for liberty the night prior to the lynching had previously announced he would prosecute vigorously if any indictments were returned.

If the county attorney desires he may also have the services of an assistant attorney general.

Deputy Tom Jones, Ratliff's vic-
tim, was buried yesterday, with
nearly the entire population of
Eastland in his funeral cortege.
Tomorrow Ratliff will be buried at
Fort Worth.

In this Texas case the prisoner seems to have been stripped of his clothes dragged into the street and hanged to a telephone pole. It was a rather shocking attack upon the law in Texas and an offense which ought not to be allowed to go unchallenged. Lynching have been on the decrease in these Southern states. If public authorities assume the right attitude toward these attacks upon the law, lynching will continue to decrease in the South. These nobs must not be allowed to take the law in their own hands, for that means be substitution of anarchy for the quiet and safer processes of the law.

2884

2884

Lynchings-1929

Virginia

2885

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

The Carrsville Case

THE case of the eight colored men arrested at Carrsville, Isle of Wight county, and given six months in jail and a fine of \$300 each for legal lynchings in Virginia unless people of both races who believe in justice and fair play come to the rescue of these men and see that they get a fair trial in the higher courts.

ured out for them by these rural magistrates.

The people of Virginia should take note of what about the white man who provoked him to indiscretion? What about the sanctity and safety of colored women in Virginia anyhow? Let us protect all women, and let us frown upon all men of whatever color who would deface them.

The case is a typical picture of the hazardous situation of Negroes living in rural communities that are ruled by fear, cowardice and prejudice.

~~guide~~
The trouble, if it can be dignified by that term, started when a white man approached an 18 year old colored youth and inquired where he could find ~~a colored woman~~ upon whom to satiate his lust. The boy seized by a natural pride of race and resentment referred the white to a woman of his own race. The man resented this and gave the colored boy a beating. Then he was set upon by relatives of the woman ~~alleged to have been~~ disrespectfully spoken of and beaten again. Following this, seven respectable hard working colored men, who stopped at a filling station owned by the woman's brother, but who made no threats nor disturbance, were rounded up, subjected to charges of "unlawful assembly" and with the boy who was beaten up, sent to jail and fined as aforeslated. When the men took an appeal and applied for bail their bonds were set at \$1000 each. Fortunately they were able to give bond. They declare their innocence of any intent to do any violence, or to try to avenge the punishment inflicted upon the 18 year old boy.

The boy made a mistake, even though he was inspired by natural human impulses. But knowing that he was surrounded by men and oppressed by a sentiment neither of whom respect Negro womanhood, nor regard Negro life discretion in his circumstances would have been the better part of valor. Unless he and the other men are defended by able legal talent and their causes tried by a fair and impartial judge and jury, the harsh and unjust punishment meted out to them precipitately by a community seized with a spirit of mob violence will stand, and they will have to suffer the outrage inflicted upon them in the name of Anglo-Saxon law.

We believe that such a thing as justice resides in Virginia courts, and if these men are given a chance they will prove that they are not entitled to the harsh treatment meas-

2897

Lynchings-1929

Legislation Relating to.

WOULD PUNISH LYNCHERS

See page 2
Letter Of Bill Provides Heavy Fines To Life Imprisonment For All Offenders.

5/11/29

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 9.—Representative Leondis Dyer, (R., Mo.) has again introduced his bill to assure all persons within the jurisdiction of the United States of equal protection of the laws, and to punish the crime of lynching.

The bill reads as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the phrase "mob or riotous assemblage" when used in this Act shall mean an assemblage composed of three or more persons acting in concert, without authority of law, for the purpose of depriving any person of his life, or doing him physical injury.

Section 2. If any state or governmental subdivision thereof fails, neglects or refuses to provide and maintain protection to life or person of any individual within its jurisdiction against a mob or riotous assemblage, whether by way of preventing or punishing the acts thereof, such state shall by reason of such failure, neglect or refusal be deemed to have denied to such person the equal protection of the laws of the state, and to the end that the protection guaranteed to persons within the jurisdictions of the several states, or to citizens of the United States, by the Constitution of the United States, may be secured, it is provided:

Section 3. Any state or municipal officer charged with the duty or who possesses the power or authority as such officer to protect the life or person of any individual that may be injured or put to death by any mob or riotous assemblage, or who having any such person in his charge as a prisoner, fails, neglects or refuses to make all appropriate efforts to prevent such person from being so injured or put to death, or any state or municipal officer charged with the duty of apprehending, keeping in custody, or prosecuting any person

therefor, or may otherwise compel payment thereof by mandamus or other appropriate process; any any officer of such county or other persons who disobeys or fails to comply with any lawful order of the court in the premises shall be liable to punishment as for contempt and any other penalty provided by law therefor.

Section 6. In the event that any person so put to death shall have been transported by such mob or riotous assemblage from one county to another county during the time intervening between his capture and putting to death, the county in which he is seized and the county in which he is put to death shall jointly and severally liable to pay the forfeiture herein provided.

Section 7. That any act committed in any state or territory of the United States in violation of the right of a citizen or subject of a foreign country secured or who shall conspire, combine, or confederate with any person to suffer such prisoner to be taken or obtained from his custody or control for the purpose of being injured or put to death without authority of law shall be guilty of felony, and those who so conspire, combine, or confederate with such officer shall likewise be guilty of a felony. On conviction the parties participating therein shall be punished by imprisonment for life or not less than five years.

Section 4. The district court of judicial district wherein a person is injured or put to death by a mob or riotous assemblage shall have jurisdiction to try and punish, in accordance with the laws of the state where the injury is inflicted or the homicide is committed, those who participate therein; Provided, That it is first made to appear to such court that officers of the state charged with the duty of preventing such offense under the laws of the state fail, neglect, or refuse to apprehend or punish such participants, or that the jurors obtained for service in the state court having jurisdiction of the offense are so strongly opposed to such punishment that there is no reasonable probability that those guilty of the offense can be punished in such state court. A failure for more than thirty days after the commission of such an offense to apprehend any of the persons guilty thereof shall be prima facie evidence of such failure, neglect or refusal.

Section 5. Any county in which a person is put to death by a mob or riotous assemblage shall forfeit \$10,000, which sum may be recovered by an action therefore in the name of the United States against such county for the use of the family, if any, of the person so put to death; if he had no family, then to his dependent parents, if any; otherwise for the use of the United States. Such action shall be brought and prosecuted by the district attorney of the United States of the district in which such county is situated in any court of the United States having jurisdiction therein. If such forfeiture is not paid upon recovery of a judgment therefor, such court shall have jurisdiction to enforce payment thereof by levy of execution upon any property of the county, or may compel the levy and collection of a tax

A SOUTHERN VICTORY

THREE'S no Negro livin' that's worth five thousand dollars dead." The drawling pronouncement with which a Florida truck farmer met the arguments of John B. Andrews, secretary of the American Association for Labor Legislation, epitomizes the attitude of non-industrial areas against which workmen's compensation has had to make its slow way in the South. But now, after months of

preliminary conferences, public hearings and strenuous legislative sessions, North Carolina has passed a carefully considered and fairly adequate workmen's compensation law.

It goes into effect July 1, and provides compensation based on 60 per cent of wages with a weekly maximum of \$18, a waiting period of seven days and a limit of \$5,500 for disability and \$6,000 for death.

A bill with provisions similar to the North Carolina law has been favorably reported by committees in both houses of the Florida legislature and

at this writing is up for debate in the state senate. If the Florida bill goes through only three states—Mississippi, Arkansas and South Carolina—remain to be won.

Under the terms of the Dyer anti-lynching bill, which had the

qualified endorsement of the Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples, the federal courts

were given jurisdiction in the

South have been learning by actual experience that frequent violence resulting in the death

accidents result not only in injury to the workers involved but also slow up production by damaging machinery and

breaking down plant morale. There have been conspicuous instances, too, of unjust settlement of accident claims due to the helplessness of employees or their dependents, the unpenalized in the sum of \$10,000, which money should be paid to the

scrupulousness of accident-case lawyers or the ignorance of immediate family of the victim.

A long educational campaign has been carried on in the laggard states by the American Association for Labor Legis

lation in cooperation with local civic and social agencies.

At the same time leaders in the industrial areas of the "new" prosecution of persons guilty of

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Due to these several influences the principle of workmen's compensation is gaining ground in the South as it has in the North, not only as a just means of spreading the cost of this hazard, but also as a factor in cutting down both the number and the intensity of industrial

accidents.

Texas Senate Prepared Stringent Anti-Lynch Bill

New York, Mar. 8.—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is informed that last month a Senate committee of the Texas legislature favorably reported a stringent bill providing that the Governor uses rangers in apprehending members of lynching mobs defining lynching as murder and subjecting to punishment for murder any person who participated in, fomented, advised, aided or furnished arms or materials to a mob which lynched a person.

3-14-29

ASKS FEDERAL TRIAL IN ALL LYNCHING

Association for Advancement of Colored People Seeks Aid of Enforcement Commission.

DECLARER PEONAGE EXISTS

Brief Finds It Cause of Race Riots—

JUN 21 1929
THE DYER ANTI-LYNCHING BILL.

According to report from Washington, Representative Dyer of the St. Louis black belt has indicated his intention to reintroduce his anti-lynching bill in his name and if he doesn't, Representative Oscar DePriest, Negro congressman from Chicago will welcome the opportunity to do so. The hope is that with a Republican majority of more than 100 in the house and with an election impending, the house majority will jam this bill through in record-breaking time. It will then be up to the senate Democrats to block it, if they can. That has been the case on two previous occasions when the bill was passed by the house.

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accidents.

Holds Segregation Ordinance Is
"Legislative Law-Breaking."

NEW YORK TIMES

JUN 24 1923

ASKS FEDERAL TRIAL IN ALL LYNCHINGS

Federal aid in the negro's fight against alleged abuses under existing conditions is asked of President Hoover's Law Enforcement Commission by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in a brief sent to George W. Wickesham and made public yesterday. Under the major headings of lynching, peonage, segregation and mob violence, the association's lengthy report details the fight made on these conditions and recommends laws which it asks the privilege of discussing in public hearings.

First consideration is given in the brief to lynching and mob violence, a request being made for a law vesting in Federal juries jurisdiction over lynching and lynchers. The model for this law would be the Dyer Anti-Lynching bill which was passed by the House of Representatives in 1922 but blocked in the Senate. The brief credits sentiment for the Dyer bill with reducing the number of lynchings from sixty-one in 1922 to twenty-eight in 1923, with average betterment since.

The brief charges that "the punishment of mob murderers continues so rare as to offer virtual immunity to participants in these crimes."

Peonage, or debt slavery, is given as the cause of the Arkansas race riots of 1919. A report by Governor Dorsey of Georgia, published in 1921, also is submitted as evidence that the condition does exist. The intimidation of negroes, the brief states, makes them afraid to report conditions or testify at investigations. While admitting that a law already covers this abuse of personal privilege, the report finds that prosecutions are rare.

On the basis of a Supreme Court decision in 1917 declared unconstitutional a racial segregation ordinance passed in Louisville, the brief warns the commission that "the legalization of discriminatory practices by majority groups of citizens against minority groups constitutes a grave danger to the spirit of tolerance, good-will and fairness upon which alone a peaceful and law-abiding social structure can be founded."

The segregation ordinance of Atlanta, Ga., and Louisiana laws of the same type are termed "legislative law-breaking." It is charged also that "Jim Crow" laws in Southern States often work to the hardship of negroes in education, travel and other ways.

Regarding disfranchisement, the association charges that it exists in the South through "intimidation and terrorization as well as by grossly unequal and discriminatory administration of existing laws."

In addition to laws correcting these conditions, the brief requests the formation of a Federal agency whose members would include both white and negro representatives to recommend other needed legislation and conduct educational work in racial problems.

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Lynchings - 1929.

N.A.A.C.P. Reports on.
TRANSCRIPT

Frazellia, N.Y.

APR 18 1929

Eleven men were lynched in 1928—only eleven. It probably is the lowest number of lynchings in any year since the Civil War, and for that reduction the work of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is largely responsible. One may even hope that in another decade the obscene practice known as lynching, once condoned by large sections of the American population, will have been wiped out entirely.

TRIBUNE

APR 15 1929

On the Job

Eleven men were lynched in 1928—only eleven. It probably is the lowest number of lynchings in any year since the Civil War, and for that reduction the work of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is largely responsible. One may even hope that in another decade lynching, once condoned by large sections of the American population, will have been wiped out entirely. In 1889 the national association recorded 175 lynchings; as late as 1926, 34; last year, 11, and 5 of those in Mississippi. Georgia used to be the great center of lynching, and public officials not so many years ago openly apologized for the practice, but a new generation, expressing the new South, is in power. There was not a lynching in Georgia in 1928, and it is safe to say that if there had been the state and most of the county officials would have done their best to punish the ringleaders of the guilty mobs.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, eternally on the job attempting to confirm the constitutional rights of colored people, has just published its nineteenth annual report. If Governors in Ohio, Montana, Michigan and California refused to permit extradition of colored citizens wanted in the lynching states of Mississippi, Alabama, Florida and Oklahoma, this association, which furnished the Governors with records of lynchings in those states, was largely responsible. If colored men and women may use the public libraries of West Virginia today, if they may bathe in the sea at Asbury Park, vote in

of mob-murder until the blot has been not merely reduced but wiped away entirely.

At the same time that the lynching record goes downward, the homicide record in the South, which is also the section where lynching is most prevalent, shows no improvement. The subject is discussed in *The Nation* by Horace B. Davis in an article entitled "A Substitute for Lynching." The title is inaccurate and misleading, but the figures to which it calls attention are deserving of far more consideration than the South gives them. Every listing of homicides shows that such Southern cities as Memphis, Birmingham, Jacksonville, Atlanta and Little Rock have homicide rates not merely much higher than those in virtually every other city in other countries, including Leningrad in 1922 when the revolutionary slaughter was still in progress, but are markedly higher than the homicide rates of either New York or Chicago, or, for that matter, of nearly any other city in the North or West.

The great majority of those killed in the South are Negroes and probably most murders of Negroes are by other Negroes. For this record there is, the Virginian-Pilot believes, a partial explanation in the status of the Negro race, economically, educationally and perhaps in other respects. The Hoover Law Enforcement Commission may provide valuable material on the subject, but, whether it does or not, enough is known of the causes of the high homicide rates to make clear the obligation of Southern civilization to undertake a more serious attack on them than it has hitherto made.

Norfolk, Va., Pilot

Wednesday, January 1, 1929

Last Year's Lynching Record

The report on lynching in the United States which was published in yesterday's Virginian-Pilot was that of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It showed twelve lynchings during 1929. The report of the Department of Research and Records of Tuskegee Institute, which has figures as far back as 1885, will probably be a little lower. It uses a narrower definition of lynching than the national association and therefore does not generally include certain types of killings which are on the border-line between lynching and homicide. The difference between the two reports, however, is of no great importance.

If the figure for 1929 is accepted as the twelve listed by the national association and if that figure is compared with the yearly figures from Tuskegee, the past year had one more lynching than 1928, but far less than any other year. Since the close of 1929 marks also the close of a decade, it is possible by further comparison to show from the Tuskegee records that whereas from 1900 to 1909 inclusive, the average number of lynchings was 82 and from 1910 to 1919 inclusive the average number was 62, in the decade of 1920 to 1929 inclusive it was less than 32. If instead of the full ten years of the decade now ended, only the last five years are used for comparison, 1925-1929 inclusive, the yearly average would be 17. Thus while there has been steady if irregular improvement for the past thirty years, the period of greatest improvement is in the immediate past and in the present. Whether it will continue into the future is, of course, a matter of conjecture; but there ought to be no peace among those who are interested in the problem

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TWELVE LYNCHED
DURING LAST YEAR

8 Negroes And 4 Whites;
One a Woman

York Jan. 3rd—Twelve known lynchings in the United States during 1929, as against 11 during the year 1928 are reported by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in a statement showing Florida leading the list of states with four mob killings.

NEW YORK HERALD
DEC 31 1928

12 Lynchings Counted in 1929

Twelve lynchings in the United States during 1929, an increase of one over 1928, were reported yesterday by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in a statement showing Florida leading the list of states with four mob killings.

the Advancement of Colored People. Florida leads the list of lynchings states with four mob murders. Mississippi, North Carolina and Texas have two each, and Kentucky and Tennessee have one each against them.

Of the twelve persons lynched, four were white, and of these one was a woman, Ella May Wiggins, textile worker of Gastonia, North Carolina. Among the occasions cited as bringing about the lynchings were: a dispute over the price of blackberries; altercation about work followed by stabbing; associating with white woman; and writing to white woman.

The chronological list of lynchings as prepared by the N. A. A. C. Waterbury Republican: P. is as follows:

Buster Allen, Feb. 20, Brooksville, Fla.

Steve Jenkins, May 11, Macon, Mississippi.

N. G. Romney (white) May 17, Lake City, Fla.

Joe Boxley, May 20, Alamo, Tenn.

Jim Mobley, June 1, Jasper, Fla.

Willie McDaniel, June 30, Charlotte, N. C.

Mose Taylor, July 5, Georgetown, Mississippi.

Cleveland Williams, Sept. 1, Calvert, Texas.

Ella May Wiggins (white) Sept. 14, Gastonia, N. C.

Will Larkins, Nov. 9, Quincy, Fla.

Marshall Ratcliff (white) Nov. 19, Eastland, Texas.

Chester Fugate (white) Dec. 25, Jackson, Kentucky.

LYNCHINGS SHOW ONE INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—(AP)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People today announced that there were 12 lynchings in the United States in 1929, one more than in 1928.

The statement said that in three cases the lynchings resulted respectively from a dispute over the price of blackberries, an altercation about work and a letter written to a white woman.

"In only three of the 12 lynchings was attack on a woman given as extenuating cause," the statement said. "An accusation of this kind is far from proof."

It added that not a single lyncher was punished during the year.

BRONX HOME NEWS

DEC 31 1929

12 Lynchings in U. S. in 1929

There were 12 lynchings in the United States in 1929, four of the victims being white, according to statistics made public yesterday by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Ave. Among the victims, the report said, was one woman. In 1928, only 11 lynchings were reported for the entire nation. Florida led all other states in the number of illegal hangings, four having occurred in that State.

REGISTER NEW HAVEN, CONN.

JAN 4 1930

LYNCING IN 1929

Waterbury Republican:

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People reports that there were 12 lynchings in 1929; the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute reports 10. The difference is presumably due to a difference in classification of cases on the borderline between lynching and murder. However that may be, the record for the year is virtually that of 1928, when there were 11 lynchings, according to both the Association and the Institute.

Ten or 12 lynchings are 10 or 12 too many, but the annual lynching record continues at the new low level towards which it made a sharp declination in 1923. There is ground for hope in this fact, although there should be no let-up in the effort to make public opinion continuously more effective for the reduction of the annual lynching toll. Meanwhile there is a new danger, pointed out by Horace B. Davis in the current issue of *The Nation*.

This is that quiet murder, perpetrated by one or two or a few discreet individuals, is taking the place of lynching, or the noisy, conspicuous mob murder. Mr. Davis describes one such quiet murder. He seems, however, to have little evidence that there is a general increase in the murder of negroes by whites under such conditions that these murders are certainly substitutes for lynchings.

Still, the question is one that Tuskegee Institute and the Association for the Advancement of Colored People should investigate carefully, to the end that the public may learn authentically if an advance in one direction is in danger of being counterbalanced by retrogression in another, and, if it is, can bring pressure to bear to avert this danger.

BROOKLYN STANDARD UNION

DEC 31 1929

TWELVE LYNCHINGS RECORD FOR 1929

Gastonia Textile Woman
Striker Listed

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

PHILADELPHIA, PA. EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER

JAN 2 1930
JUDGE LYNCH

WHILE the year 1929 was notable for advancement along many lines, the United States must confess that its record for mob murders is as shameful as ever. Twelve known lynchings occurred in this country during the last year, according to statistics compiled by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. A similar report issued by the Tuskegee Institute lists only eleven, the same number as in 1928.

Of the twelve persons lynched, eight were colored and one of them was a man seventy-two years old, against whose alleged "offense" there is no law. The four white victims included a woman, Mrs. Ella May Wiggins, who was killed when shots were fired into a group of unarmed strike sympathizers at Gastonia, N. C. All of the known lynchings took place in the South. Florida led the list with four; Mississippi, North Carolina and Texas had two each, and Kentucky and Tennessee had one each.

Furthermore, it is reported that not a single lyncher has been punished during 1929. These crimes are a dark blot upon the Nation's record, while the failure to punish the perpetrators reflects no credit upon the forces of law and order.

Lexington, Va., News
Thursday, January 2, 1930
Twelve Lynchings In United States In 1929.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Monday in New York announced that there were twelve lynchings in the United States in 1929, one more than in 1928.

The statement said that in three cases the lynchings resulted respectively from a dispute over the price of blackberries, an altercation about work and a letter written to a white woman.

"In only three of the twelve lynchings was attack on a woman given as extenuating cause," the statement said. "An accusation of this kind is far from proof."

NEW YORK TIMES

TWELVE LYNCHED IN 1929.

Four of the Victims Were White, Annual Survey Reveals.

There were twelve lynchings in the

United States in 1929, four of the victims being white, according to statistics made public yesterday by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue. The list, which included one woman, compared with eleven lynchings reported for 1928.

The States in which mob executions occurred were named as follows:

Florida 4 North Carolina 2
Kentucky 1 Tennessee 1
Mississippi 2 Texas 3

PHILADELPHIA, PA. PUBLIC LEDGER

JAN 1 - 1930

A YEAR'S LYNCHINGS

TWELVE lynchings in 1929 contrast with eleven in 1928. The mob murders were committed in six Southern States. Four whites were among the victims. In only three cases were attacks on women given as excuse for the vengeance privately taken. Blood lust, rather than real concern for the adequate punishment of offenders, is indicated by the barbarism of some of the lynchings. Additional evidence of the slowness with which public sentiment moves against lynching where it is most practiced is the fact that not a lyncher was punished in 1929.

But Breathitt County, Ky., is making a gesture in the right direction. There this week six men were held in jail to answer for the murder of a prisoner taken from jail and killed. The victim had been charged with the murder of the county school board chairman, and the six accused of this lynching are all relatives of the murdered man. Possibly the prosecutions begun do not represent a change of sentiment against lynching in Kentucky. Where family feuds are involved, the ordinary code may not apply.

COLUMBUS, O. DISPATCH

JAN 2 1930 Twelve Lynchings in 1929.

TWELVE known lynchings occurred in the United States during 1929, as against eleven in 1928, according to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute lists but eleven. There were four white victims of mob violence, including one woman.

The year also closed without a single lyncher being punished for participation in these murders, the association points out. Florida leads the list. Then follows Mississippi, North Carolina, Texas, Kentucky and Tennessee.

The alleged reasons for these crimes were many and varied. It is notable that attacks by negroes upon white women, which, to a certain type of mind justifies mob violence, were only three in number. There is room for suspicion that this charge has more than once been fastened upon a hapless victim in order to lend justification to

acts that are utterly without justification by any be sound reasoning, but reason never prevails with the mob bent on lynching. It is the total lack of measure of right or fairness.

By all standards of American justice, most of reason that leads them to the act, the victims of these mobs were innocent, for they had not been found guilty by due process of law, which includes a fair trial. This we believe to

Lynchings - 1929

Prevented.

Alabama.

2899

mob violence and lawlessness would have occurred. the lynchings and gang killings in the North as perennial disgrace to the American name and To the everlasting credit of Alabama, from its barriers against criticism of Southern lawlessness. Governor down to the sheriff of Barbour county, The South realizes that to excuse its own defects let it be said and repeated, the orderly process of by pointing out similar defects in other sections of law was followed without wavering.

Commenting on the fearless and determined stand of the authorities of the law, the Montgomery Advertiser very properly congratulates its State in the following words:

The State of Alabama is to be felicitated upon the speed with which Lester Bouyer, Barbour County murderer, was indicted, tried and sentenced to die; in particular is the State to be felicitated upon the restraint of its citizens in the face of great provocation and their acquiescence in the appeal of authorities that the law be allowed to take its course.

Bouyer, a Negro with a prison record, committed one of the most hideous crimes of this generation. There was a time in this State when such a crime—rather such a double crime—would almost certainly have resulted in mob violence. But two factors cooperated to keep the person of Bouyer safely in the hands of the law's agents. In the first place, Governor Graves took no doubtful chances. He very properly and prudently called out the National Guard and other enforcement agencies and instructed them to protect the prisoner against a possible outbreak of the mob passion. This precautionary step alone was sufficient to protect the prisoner. But it is to be said also that there is a new attitude among the people of Alabama toward mob action. There is a growing disposition in this State to repress the mob spirit and let the courts perform their duty. Public opinion undoubtedly is advancing with respect to this old problem. Mobs are not so quick and not so determined as they formerly were.

We are overcoming the mob spirit and the circumstance does us great credit.

The Enquirer-Sun, which has believed that lynchings, whether in the South or in the North or West, are not only brutal and cowardly but avoidable, takes a genuine pleasure in congratulating

"LET THE SOUTH CONGRATULATE AND EMULATE ALABAMA'S STAND FOR JUSTICE"

In North Platte, Neb., a Negro killed a policeman. The Negro was cornered in a house, and when torches were put to the building the Negro killed himself. Not satisfied with the death of the Negro murderer, the citizens of North Platte grew hysterical and began mob action against the innocent and helpless Negroes of their town.

Commenting on this brutal episode in Nebraska, the Macon Telegraph said:

Southern communities have been guilty of lynchings, but no Southern community has been guilty of such gross injustice to Negroes as North Platte, Neb. Because a Negro killed a policeman, all the Negroes of North Platte were driven out of the town by a mob within two or three hours after the crime. They are given time enough to gather their personal belongings, but no more. Armed citizens followed them down the roads leading from North Platte so that they would not come back.

That, of course, is a gross violation of all sense of justice. One Negro alone killed a policeman and he punished his own crime by killing himself when a mob threatened him. The other Negroes, presumptively, at least, were peaceful people guilty of nothing except racial inheritance. They had accumulated property and held positions which they had to leave on an instant's notice because of the fury of a mob.

Injustice and barbarity have no geographical bounds and no definite lines. They manifest themselves as sharply above as below the Mason and Dixon line.

Just about the time of the North Platte outrage, Lester Bouyer, an Alabama Negro with a criminal record, killed a young man and wounded another in its confines. The vast majority of Southern editors have long been aware that it does not move the South a single step forward to attempt to palliate lynchings in the South by using it and constitutional law.

the lynchings and gang killings in the North as perennial disgrace to the American name and to the institution of liberty, justice and protection. It is good to know that the vast majority of states have stamped out this gross crime and that substantial progress has been made in the remainder. The new south will not much longer tolerate the crime. It is now demanding that local authorities suppress it and asking embarrassing questions when they do not. the changed circumstances, we shall probably not care to do. Meanwhile, let the South join in congratulating and emulating the State of Alabama, while our Governors keep in mind the firm and justified resolve of Gov. Graves: "There will not be a lynching in Alabama if I can prevent it."

Columbus Enquirer-Sun.

JOURNAL
DAYTON, O.

JUL 27 1929

TENNESSEAN
NASHVILLE, TENN.

JUL 27 1929

Prevention of Lynching.

Alabama's executive is entitled to unstinted praise for the successful effort recently made to prevent the lynching of a negro guilty of two unusually revolting crimes. The negro was a moral pervert having been twice before sentenced for burglary. He murdered a young man whom he attempted to rob. He then outraged the young woman companion of the murdered man. There was present all the elements and more to provoke a lynching. But it did not take place. The Alabama authorities were alert and competent. They conveyed the prisoner to the state prison and there kept him until the day of trial.

Governor Graves was determined that the state's good name should not be disgraced by a lynching. He sent three companies of the state militia to the trial and their presence insured the supremacy of the law. The trial was of brief duration, the evidence was undisputed and the prisoner was sentenced to die legally during the coming month. He will be protected against punishment outside the law but will pay within the law the penalty which his offenses so richly merit.

It is a distinct victory for the law and is significant of improved conditions in this part of the country when under circumstances of this kind the state can emerge the victor. There can be no doubt that the South is making notable headway in its laudable efforts to maintain legal justice and to suppress mob violence. The task has not been easy. It has required courage upon the part of officials, a high sense of civic duty upon the part of the press and the most earnest cooperation of all agencies concerned for the supremacy of the law. The mob spirit is not confined to the South. On the contrary, the passions which prompt violence of this kind can be aroused almost anywhere. But the South has been the victim of more cases of mob violence because it has had more crimes provocative of a resort to primitive passions. Whenever our citizens once realize the fact that the real victim of the mob is not the miscreant upon whom it wreaks its vengeance but it is the state then we will be in a fair way to complete victory in our endeavors to substitute

The ghastly roster of lynchings has been a

legal justice for the primitive passions of the irresponsible mob. The remedy for this and the other evils in government of which we complain lies in a higher sense of civic responsibility manifested not alone by the officials but by the citizens generally. When we take our duties and obligations as members of society more seriously we will be more orderly in our conduct and appreciate more the necessity for maintaining the supremacy of our institutions.

AMERICAN

HATTIESBURG, MISS.

EAGLE

Bethel, Ala.

JUL 27 1929

"LET THE SOUTH CONGRATULATE AND EMULATE ALABAMA'S STAND FOR JUSTICE"

In North Platte, Neb., a Negro killed a policeman. The Negro was cornered in a house, and when torches were put to the building the Negro killed himself. Not satisfied with the death of the Negro murderer, the citizens of North Platte grew hysterical and began mob action against the innocent and helpless Negroes of their town.

Commenting on this brutal episode in Nebraska, the Macon Telegraph said:

Southern communities have been guilty of lynchings, but no Southern community has been guilty of such gross injustice to Negroes as North Platte, Neb. Because a Negro killed a policeman, all the Negroes of North Platte were driven out of the town by a mob within two or three hours after the crime. They are given time enough to gather their personal belongings, but no more. Armed citizens followed them down the roads leading from North Platte so that they would not come back.

That, of course, is a gross violation of all sense of justice. One Negro alone killed a policeman and he punished his own crime by killing himself when a mob threatened him. The other Negroes, presumptively, at least, were peaceful people guilty of nothing except racial inheritance. They had accumulated property and held positions which they had to leave on an instant's notice because of the fury of a mob.

Injustice and barbarity have no geographical bounds and no definite lines. They manifest themselves as sharply above as below the Mason and Dixon line.

Just about the time of the North Platte outbreak, Lester Bouyer, an Alabama Negro with a criminal record, killed a young man and wounded the lynchings and gang killings in the North and assaulted the young women who was with the barriers against criticism of Southern lawlessness murdered man. Here was double or triple cause for a lynching, and in Alabama a few years ago by pointing out similar defects in other sections of mob violence and lawlessness would have occurred. The country is begging the question. Our own Governor down to the sheriff of Barbour county, have achieved that, we shall be in a position to let it be said and repeated, the orderly process of sail the North or the West, something which, law was followed without wavering.

Commenting on the fearless and determined stand of the authorities of the law, the Montgom-

ery Advertiser very properly congratulates its State in the following words:

The State of Alabama is to be felicitated upon the speed with which Lester Bouyer, Barbour County murderer, was indicted, tried and sentenced to die; in particular is the State to be felicitated upon the restraint of its citizens in the face of great provocation and their acquiescence in the appeal of authorities that the law be allowed to take its course.

Bouyer, a Negro with a prison record, committed one of the most hideous crimes of this generation. There was a time in this State when such a crime—rather such a double crime—would almost certainly have resulted in mob violence. But two factors cooperated to keep the person of Bouyer safely in the hands of the law's agents. In the first place, Governor Graves took no doubtful chances. He very properly and prudently called out the National Guard and other enforcement agencies and instructed them to protect the prisoner against a possible outbreak of the mob passion. This precautionary step alone was sufficient to protect the prisoner. But it is to be said also that there is a new attitude among the people of Alabama toward mob action. There is a growing disposition in this State to repress the mob spirit and let the courts perform their duty. Public opinion undoubtedly is advancing with respect to this old problem. Mobs are not so quick and not so determined as they formerly were.

We are overcoming the mob spirit and the circumstance does us great credit.

The Enquirer-Sun, which has believed that lynchings, whether in the South or in the North or West, are not only brutal and cowardly but avoidable, takes a genuine pleasure in congratulating the sovereign State of Alabama on its determination that the law and not the lawless shall prevail in its confines. The vast majority of Southern editors have long been aware that it does

not move the South a single step forward to attempt to palliate lynchings in the South by using

The South realizes that to excuse its own defect

for a lynching, and in Alabama a few years ago by pointing out similar defects in other sections of

mob violence and lawlessness would have occurred. the country is begging the question. Our own

To the everlasting credit of Alabama, from its shortcomings must first be remedied, and when we

Governor down to the sheriff of Barbour county, have achieved that, we shall be in a position to

let it be said and repeated, the orderly process of sail the North or the West, something which,

the changed circumstances, we shall probably not care to do. Meanwhile, let the South join in congratulating and emulating the State of Alabama

while our Governors keep in mind the firm and justified resolve of Gov. Graves: "There will never be a lynching in Alabama if I can prevent it."

Columbus Enquirer-Sun.

BOUYER'S ORDERLY TRIAL

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Lynchings - 1929

Prevented

Killer Rests In Kilby Death Cell After Fast Trial

Chair Yawns For Negro Who Murdered Youth And Attacked Girl

Victim On Stand

Bouyer Wants No Delay; To Die August 23

By CARL ROUNTREE

Staff Correspondent

EUFAULA, ALA., July 23.—The law of Eufaula remained away from the moves swiftly and surely. Within 13 days after commission of one of the most atrocious crimes in the history of Alabama, the slayer of A. J. Hines, met and witnessed the departure of the state to attend the trial.

Many of the more substantial citizens of this city, in the condemned cell at Kilby Prison at Montgomery searched before they were admitted. No one was permitted to stand in the aisles awaiting execution August 23.

Charles Harris, alias Leslie Bouyer, and crowds in the corridors were forbidden to enter. The trial began about 9 a.m. after a degree murder and sentenced to death delay for conferences. The circuit solicitor, Tom Patterson, was of the opinion that the negro was to arrive at 11 a.m. and so did not reach the courtroom with the assault upon Miss Clark's house until the trial was nearly over. W. H. Merrill, county solicitor, headed the life so far as the law is concerned will prosecution. Assisting him were Charles S. McDowell, A. M. McDowell and Chauncey Sparks, all attorneys of this electric chair by Judge J. S. Williams, city.

The negro was represented by E. W. Norton, attorney of Clayton. He was indicted Monday about noon and at the same time today the murder case though about 11 had been summoned, had been disposed of and Bouyer was They were Miss Clark, Dr. W. S. Britt en route to the prison, his fate already determined.

The time of the electrocution was Miss Clark, who was wounded by the fixed by Judge Williams between the negro, positively identified Bouyer as the hours of midnight and sunrise. slayer of Hines, adding that he was Before pronouncing sentence, the judge standing three or four steps from him asked Bouyer if he had anything to say when he fired the shotgun.

"Don't put off death any longer than you can, even if it is this afternoon," he to whether Hines made any demonstration, to which she replied that he did As Judge Williams concluded without.

"May God have mercy on your soul," the negro said, "He's already got it." Hines, she declared, begged the negro to spare his life. She said the negro Bouyer, an ex-convict who completed a prison sentence on May 7, was con-

victed by the jury after a deliberation of only four minutes. The case was placed in its hands at 10:29 a.m. and at 10:33 the jury rapped on the door, indicating it had arrived at a verdict.

After a short delay during which the court cautioned the estimated 150 spectators who were scattered among armed guardsmen and state law enforcement officers, the verdict was received and read. There was not the slightest demonstration, not even a ripple of applause. The verdict was signed by J. M. Spurlock, wholesale grocery man of this city. It was satisfactory to the crowd.

The trial of Bouyer was not sensational. There were very few people around the courthouse and they were orderly at all times.

If there was ever any thought of lynching the negro when he was brought here for trial, it was quickly dispelled by the presence of armed National Guardsmen and about 25 state law enforcement officers under Chief Walter K. McAdory, to say nothing of local authorities.

Only a few spectators came from Georgia, just across the river, where near beer is almost a commodity. It was rumored there would be thousands of persons from Georgia and other parts of the state to attend the trial.

Spectators Searched

All spectators in the court room were searched before they were admitted. No one was permitted to stand in the aisles awaiting execution August 23.

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Alabama

2900

GRAVES LAUDS GUARDSMEN.
His expression and demeanor clearly

evidencing his relief from the great strain under which he has labored during three days and nights of apprehension lest serious trouble might develop

in Barbour County incident to the arraignment and trial at Eufaula of Les-

Bouyer, alias Charlie Harris, confessed slayer of Jack Hines and assailant of Hines's young woman companion,

Gov. Bibb Graves yesterday afternoon praised in the highest terms the work of all those who had a part in preserving order during the crucial period.

"Alabama is proud of its law enforcement achievement in this case and of its National Guard and its state officers in upholding the dignity and majesty of the law," Gov. Graves said. "I expect to issue a commendatory state-

ment signed, by me personally, and addressed to Gen. Walter E. Bare, who commanded the National Guard in this emergency, to all officers under his command, and to every non-commissioned officer and private soldier who served

under them expressing my own appreciation and that of the State of Alabama for their efficient patriotic service. I will also address like commendatory statements to the 22 state law enforcement officers who cooperated.

"I wish to extend my congratulations to the citizens of Barbour County for their self-control and their loyalty to the cause of law and order."

During the afternoon yesterday the chief executive forwarded a letter to Circuit Judge J. S. Williams at Eufaula in which he congratulated Judge Williams on his efficient handling of "the most delicate and difficult situation that has arisen in the enforcement of our laws in many years," and tendered to him the appreciation of the state for his services.

The governor was to leave Montgomery this morning and it was stated he would be out of town for the remainder of the week on a brief vacation.

Eight hours and forty minutes after he left Kilby Prison in the custody of National Guardsmen and state officers to board the special train that was to take him to Eufaula for arraignment and trial, Bouyer, after being tried, convicted and sentenced to die in the electric chair on Friday, Aug. 23, had been returned to Kilby via the same special train and the great steel door of the main entrance to the penitentiary had clang'd to behind him.

Leaving the prison at 5:05 a.m., yesterday, he reentered it and was marched back to his cell at 1:45 p.m. It is the same cell into which he was locked early Tuesday morning a week ago, following his arrest near Spangler. A short distance away, just beyond the turn at the east end of the corridor dividing the death cells is the electric chair in which the negro will expiate his brutal crime.

Two hundred and twenty-one Alabama National Guardsmen, officers and enlisted men, under command of Gen. Bare, carried out the duty of transport-

dress with hose to match and black slip-off O. H. Teal, of Barbour County, was brought to the court room from the hospital, where she is still under treatment. Her left arm was bandaged. Williams commended the jurors and citi-

zens for the spirit "manifested here," adding he was willing to trust the people of Barbour County. "I don't suppose," he declared, "any man in the county is

prouder of Barbour than I." The jurist called attention to threats he said he had heard and to re-

charge penetrated the chest and lodged beneath the muscle in the back. It quests for precautionary measures, which ranged about five degrees downward, he resulted in a conference and the send-

testified. The physician, who operates Britt's Infirmary, added Hines had been gro during the trial. "I propose to give every man a fair trial," Judge Williams said.

Capt. Smith, as he is known in Montgomery, reviewed Bouyer's movements from the time he was released from prison until the night of the slaying and if the temporary impulse is yielded to.

At the outset the officer told the court that no threats had been made, no inducements or hope of reward offered to counsel for the defendant. All Eufaula Bouyer. Only kindness was used, he said, had been retained by stated, in obtaining the confession.

Tells of Crime

The negro told the group of officers to whom he confessed that he was walking along the railroad in the hope of catching a train.

He came upon the couple on the track and asked the man for money, he was quoted as saying.

Hines was said to have replied that he didn't have any money with him, but if he would accompany him to Eufaula he would give him a dollar, the amount asked.

To this, the negro refused and Hines was quoted as saying, "I'll give you anything if you won't kill me."

The negro then said, Capt. Smith testified, that he walked by the couple and that the two began following him.

Bouyer said he then turned and walked back and shot Hines, only to turn again and run into some bushes, the officer added.

There Norton objected and the court ruled the state had established the corpus delicti and added there was no occasion to go further.

Norton then conferred with the defendant in an ante-room and on returning announced he had no witnesses. Judge Williams then charged the jury. It was brief but to the point and dealt with points of law, particularly the defining of first and second degree murder and the duties of the jurors in arriving at their verdict.

Courtroom Cleared

Within a few minutes after the verdict was received, the courtroom and grounds were clear and Bouyer, handcuffed to O. F. Baker, state law enforcement officer, was marched in a mass formation of guardsmen to the special train. It left at 11:15 a.m., almost three hours to the minute from the time of its arrival.

Bouyer was brought from the train to the courtroom in the same manner. Sheriff Miss Clark, dressed in a lavender voile

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~~Prevented.~~

and drove away. Miss Clark waited until the machine was out of sight and ran about two miles to a basket factory where she notified G. M. Sullivan, night-watchman. He spread the alarm.

Bloodhounds were taken to the spot where Hines's car was found near Mayme but they were unable to pick up the trail.

Hines, member of a well-known Barbour County family, was buried in Fairview Cemetery at Eufaula yesterday afternoon. The services were conducted by Dr. C. C. Pugh, pastor of the Baptist Church. Pallbearers were composed of his business associates.

Hines was connected with the Home Oil Company. Surviving are his parents, one brother and two sisters.

~~NOBODY WAS INTIMIDATED~~

The Daily Oklahoman of Oklahoma City, after commending Alabama for letting a fair, so good. The mob spirit is overawed jury instead of a mob try Lester Bouyer of Barbour County, says:

But who can say that a trial held in a ring of bayonets with a sullen mob assembled outside the ring is the fair and impartial trial guaranteed to every citizen? Who can say that the defendant's counsel was not ill at ease for fear he should do or say something offensive to the mob? Who can deny that those jurors knew that death to them was more than possible if they should return any verdict save one of guilty as charged?

Of course the executive authority should employ every power he possesses to preserve as many of the defendant's constitutional rights as possible. He should use the militia whenever necessary to prevent a lynching. He should surround the courthouse with armed guards if that drastic course be necessary to give the defendant a formal trial according to due process. All this Gov. Graves has done. But all of this is not enough. It was not enough to give the Clayton defendant a trial that was only superficially fair and impartial. He would have been convicted and sentenced to death regardless of the evidence adduced against him, for that was the will of the angry mob assembled on the courthouse green.

The Daily Oklahoman's theorizing falls down in face of the fact that the case against Bouyer was complete. Bouyer himself was the State's star witness. After his arrest and again at his trial he pleaded guilty. After pleading guilty he asked for an early execution. He was tried in a lawful manner; while he was tried quickly he was not tried with undue haste. He will be executed by the State, not by a mob. His execution will take place 30 days from the time of his conviction, following his confession. We do not see how the people of Alabama could have acted any more decently than they did. Nobody was intimidated.

OKLAHOMAN OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.

JUL 25 1929

Lynching at Second Hand

QUICK and commendable work is done by Governor Graves of Alabama when he rushes the troops to Montgomery to take charge of a negro prisoner, escort him to Clayton for trial, and guard the courthouse while the defendant is being tried for murder and criminal assault. So far, so good. The mob spirit is overawed and the course of due process runs unmolested. A state has been saved from the disgrace of another mob murder. All very commendable and reassuring.

But who can say that a trial held in a ring of bayonets with a sullen mob assembled outside the ring is the fair and impartial trial guaranteed to every citizen? Who can say that the defendant's counsel was not ill at ease for fear he should do or say something offensive to the mob? Who can deny that those jurors knew that death to them was more than possible if they should return any verdict save one of guilty as charged?

Certainly the spirit of the mob and its sinister influence were in the courtroom and jury box in spite of mobilization and bayonet guard. The guilty verdict was almost as much a mob verdict as if it had been returned on a lonely hillside among the pines with a burning scaffold for immolation prepared in advance. Lynch law can never be extirpated by the suppression of the mob's visible presence. The mob spirit and the lust for mob murder must be entirely eradicated before any state can claim to be free from the stain of lynching.

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Alabama.

any hazard" two Birmingham guard units were to entrain there tonight for Montgomery where tomorrow they were to receive custody of the prisoner from Kilby prison authorities. They will take Bouyer to Eufaula, in Barbour county, 29 miles southeast of here, and less than 21 miles from Clayton, where indictments charging him with the murder of Jack Hines, Eufaula mechanic, and a statutory offense against Hines' woman companion near Eufaula, on the night of July 10 were returned today by a special grand jury. His trial is scheduled to open at a special term of court at 8:30 A. M. tomorrow.

The guardsmen will be accompanied by a squad of state law enforcement officers. They will remain with the negro until completion of the trial.

Reports from Barbour county authorities said the guardsmen probably will be called on to escort the Negro back to Kilby in the event of conviction or out of the community if acquitted.

The detachments were called out by Governor Graves at the request of Barbour authorities who stated county and municipal forces would be unable to cope with the threatening situation. In responding with the order, the state's chief executive declared "There will not be a lynching in Alabama if I can prevent it."

Reports from Barbour county late today said everything was quiet although there was considerable tension there and in neighboring south-western Georgia counties. Bouyer was arrested at Speigners, twenty miles from here, a week after Hines had been killed as he sat in an automobile with the girl. The young woman told authorities that Bouyer, whom she identified, dragged her from the automobile and assaulted her after she had been clubbed into submission. She was one of the six witnesses to appear before the Barbour county grand jury.

A detachment of 50 national guardsmen under command of Captain John Snyder, left here late today for Eufaula to establish a guard around the county courthouse there preparatory to the arrival early tomorrow of the remainder of the contingent with the Negro.

SOLDIERS IN EUFAULA

EUFALIA, Ala., July 22.—(UPI) National Guard troops were patrolling the streets of Eufaula at midnight tonight following the arrival of a detachment of guardsmen mobilized in neighboring towns to protect Lester Bouyer, negro, who faces trial here tomorrow on an indictment charging the murder of Jack Hines, Eufaula mechanic.

Plans were under way to station a guard on the Alabama side of the Chattahoochee river bridge upon the

MONTGOMERY, Ala., July 22.—(UPI) Alabama National Guard units were mobilized for the first time in upwards of a decade today to prevent execution of threats of mob violence to a Negro charged with commission of a major crime.

Under orders from Governor Bibb Graves to protect Lester Bouyer "at

2903

spread of a rumor that a mob would form on the Georgia side to join any mob that might be organized in Barbour county upon the arrival of the prisoner.

INDICTMENTS RETURNED

EUFALIA, ALA., July 22—Special to the Enquirer-Sun.—At a special term of the circuit court of Barbour county called at ten o'clock Monday morning by Judge J. S. Williams a special grand jury was empanelled to investigate the charge against Lester Bouyer negro, for the murder of Jack Hines young white man and attack upon his woman companion while they were riding in a car on the Montgomery-Eufaula highway last week. The judge in his charge to the jury pleaded for strict observance of the law in the fact of the high tension that prevails in the community, and ~~the~~ ^{13 29} fear of mob violence. The grand jury went in session in charge of Deputy E. P. Clark and Solicitor T. M. Patterson at 11:30 and at one o'clock reported their finding of two indictments against the accused, one for murder of Hines and one for assault on the girl who is still in a local hospital here.

The traverse jury to be drawn from to try the case was ordered to be in court Tuesday morning at eight o'clock, when the prisoner now in Kilby prison will be brought in court under a special military guard appointed by Governor Graves.

Judge Williams was very emphatic and very strong in his preliminary talk to the court assembled and said that he did not anticipate any mob trouble and that the sheriff of Barbour county and his deputies were equal to the emergency but that he felt the precaution of the military guard cooperation with the sheriff would not be untimely. There was a known effort Sunday night to organize a mob but indications are that it fell through for want of a leader.

The court house was crowded when court opened but there was perfect quiet and order. Both the father of Mr. Hines and the girl have expressed the wish that "The law may be left to handle the case."

Graves Orders Guard To Shield Barbour Killer

Asks Brig. Gen. Bare To Assemble Ample Force To Protect Negro

Jury Meets Today

Expect To Arraign Prisoner Tuesday If Indicted

Upon request of Judge J. S. Williams of the Barbour Circuit Court, Gov. state call out the militia to protect life from the hands of a mob, Graves last night announced that he had ordered Brig. Gen. Walter Bare, commander of the Alabama National Guard, to assemble an ample number of guardsmen to protect Leslie Bouyer, negro slayer, in his arraignment and trial for the murder of Jack Hines and attacking Hines's companion.

Gov. Graves assured Judge Williams that an abundance of protection will be given the negro.

The chief executive said that he had instructed Gen. Bare "to assemble an ample force and absolutely protect the negro against any and all dangers."

It is expected that the negro will be indicted by the Barbour Grand Jury under such conditions, only which convenes today and arraigned Tuesday. He will be tried shortly thereafter.

Insofar as can be learned no change of venue has been requested and Judge Williams has openly declared that the negro should be tried in Barbour County. The citizens of Barbour County are willing and eager that the law shall take its course in an orderly manner, Judge Williams said.

Bouyer, who on Saturday was ill with a high temperature which prison officials said was the result of poor nourishment while he was fleeing from the law, was "all right" last night attaches of the prison said. He had no fever, it was said.

Whether the negro will be tried solely for the murder of Hines or whether he will be tried jointly for the two capital crimes will depend upon the nature of the indictment expected to be returned today. It is believed likely, however, that the state will elect to try him for the murder of Hines.

In the event of Bouyer's indictment and conviction with the death penalty, the earliest possible date a judge may set for his electrocution will be 30 days from the date of sentence.

MOBS TELL JURY WHAT TO DO

Down in Alabama a few days ago, it only took a jury of twelve white men just ten (10) minutes to assess a death sentence against a Negro who was charged with murder. This until now it is possible to go year after supposed trial by a jury of twelve men was, in fact, no legal year without a lynching. Let us not spoil trial at all because the whole proceedings were dominated by the spirit of a mob.

The mob had spoken. *Argus* tells the jury what to do by its presence and its members were in and out of the courthouse during the so-called trial to see to it that the ~~state~~ carried out its dictum.

The judge on the bench was aware of the presence of the mob. The prosecutor could hear the ~~burning~~ sound which came from the threats of the mob. The jury knew just exactly what the demands of the mob were, and all of the people know for what cause three companies of the ~~state~~ ^{13 29} militia were there, and everybody who knows anything about court proceedings knows that it was impossible for a Negro to have a fair trial under those circumstances.

We suppose that the mob which played such a conspicuous part in the trial, conviction, and sentence of this man is satisfied at least for thirty days, and after its victim is electrocuted, it will boast of one more victory.

Of course, it is a laudable thing to have the governor of a state call out the militia to protect life from the hands of a mob, but when the mob follows up and sees the case through which had previously prescribed, then, we say that it looks like encouraging the mob. In fact, we are quite sure that when the mob finds out that all it has to do is to make a demonstration and a few threats and the state will do the rest, it will always choose that method of operation as it will be the easier course to pursue when thirsty for Negro blood.

The United States Supreme Court has said that where convictions have been had, when the court was dominated by mob dueling. The local authorities can stop it if they be given the negro. We fully agree with this decision of the highest court in the the old disgrace is manifest throughout the South.

It is expected that the negro will be land, and it is our opinion that these so-called trials, conducted

ALABAMA MILITIA TO GUARD NEGRO AT MURDER TRIAL

Montgomery, Ala., July 22. (AP)—Governor Graves said tonight that he had requested Brigadier General Walter Bare, of the Alabama national guard, to provide a guard for Lester Bouyer, confessed slayer of Jack Hines, Eufaula (Okla.), ~~you'll~~ if ~~he~~ man was cruelly murdered and his girl companion seriously injured, is believed to have been apprehended and lodged safely in Kilby Prison, it is to be hoped that the

The Governor's order followed a request from Judge J. S. Williams of the Barbour circuit court, for "ample protection." Judge Williams previously has announced the negro would be placed on trial Tuesday at Eufaula if he is indicted by the grand jury tomorrow evening. The negro to trial Tuesday.

Feeling has been ~~high~~ in southeast Alabama and southwest Georgia since the slaying of Hines and the attack on Miss Beatrice Clark, Hines' companion, near Eufaula the night of July 10.

"Every precaution was taken to prevent mob violence," Governor Graves said.

Bouyer is being held at the state penitentiary here pending action of the grand jury.

sions of its mobs. This State has made a singularly creditable record in this regard. Lynchings have become fewer and fewer until now it is possible to go year after year without a lynching. Let us not spoil this good record even under the most provoking circumstances.

NEW YORK HERALD

JUL 24 1929

Wiping Out Lynching

"There will not be a lynching in Alabama if I can prevent it," says Governor Bibb Graves, and to prove his words he orders two Birmingham Guard units to entrain for Kilby, instructed to protect a Negro suspect "at any hazard." There has never been any danger that Negro criminals in the South would escape justice at the hands of Southern courts, and the ghastly roster of lynchings has been a perennial disgrace to the American name.

The number of lynchings has been declining steadily since the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People began its agitation for a Federal anti-lynching bill; and if other state authorities act as Nebraska's Attorney General

acted last week, as Alabama's Governor is acting today, lynching will become as dead an issue as dueling. The local authorities can stop it if they be given the will, and a new determination to wipe out the old disgrace is manifest throughout the South.

ADVERTISER MONTGOMERY, ALA.

JUL 17 1929

NOW LET THE LAW TAKE ITS COURSE!

Now that the author of the gruesome crime in Barbour County by which a young man was cruelly murdered and his girl companion seriously injured, is believed to have been apprehended and lodged safely in Kilby Prison, it is to be hoped that the law may be permitted to run its orderly course. This Negro should be indicted and fairly tried. It will not be difficult to establish his guilt or innocence. If he is innocent no man would wish to take his life lawfully or unlawfully. If he is guilty we may rest assured that he will be promptly executed.

In such trying circumstances the mob spirit runs high, but the mob spirit is a dangerous thing and is always to be deplored and guarded against. Alabama has learned in recent years to restrain the pas-

Lynchings-1929

Prevented
TIMES
NORRISTOWN, PA.

JUL 30 1929

A TRIUMPH FOR JUSTICE

GOVERNOR BIBB GRAVES, of Alabama proved himself an energetic and wise executive the other day when he ordered two companies of national guardsmen to Eufala, Ala., to protect a colored man who was being tried for a peculiarly brutal murder.

The prisoner's guilt was quite obvious, and feeling against him was running high. Conditions were just about right for a lynching; and the governor might well have asked himself 'Well, what's the difference? If the mob doesn't hang him now the state will have to hang him a couple of months later.'

But Governor Graves saw things otherwise.

He ordered out the soldiers and instructed them to "use any means necessary" to protect the negro from mob violence. The job was done efficiently. The negro was tried, convicted, and sentenced to hang. The law is taking its due course, and the prisoner's crime is going to be avenged.

And Governor Graves has saved his state from putting a black mark on its record.

CHICAGO, ILL. TRIBUNE
THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1929

PREVENTION OF LYNCHING.

An Alabama Negro who had been twice sentenced for burglary murdered a young man whom he attempted to rob. The victim was driving with a young woman. When the murderer was arrested the scene was set for a lynching, but it did not take place. The Alabama authorities were competent. An armed force was provided in time to assure a legal procedure. The trial was short, but it appears to have been sufficient. The prisoner was sentenced to die legally in August and thus far he has been protected against punishment outside the law.

The crime was of a character to be inflammatory, but the law held its own. The south is making notable headway in the maintenance of legal justice as against mob violence. It hasn't been an easy task for the authorities. The passions involved are primitive and the mob spirit can be aroused anywhere, but prevailing public opinion is making legal justice enforceable.

Alabama.

Inching Along

Amsterdam News

GOVERNOR Bibb Graves, of Alabama should be given credit for his prompt action to prevent the lynching of Lester Bouyer. Bouyer was tried for the murder of a white man. The Governor ordered two companies of the State Militia to preserve order in the court room. When Bouyer was convicted of murder in the first degree and sentenced to death 150 National Guardsmen rode with him on the special train that took him to prison.

THE FACT that this had to be done to avoid a lynching is a sad commentary on American civilization, but it is more than had been done in other cases. There is still the question as to whether Bouyer had a fair trial, but the fact that he had a trial shows an important step forward.

JOURNAL

AUGUSTA, ME.

JUL 29 1929

The efforts of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, that began agitation against lynching by way of a demand for a Federal anti-lynching law, are bearing fruit. The Governor of Alabama declared the other day that there would be no lynching in his State if he could prevent it. He ordered the protection of a negro "at all hazard" and he was protected. The lynchings

cuted early in August. Official courage, as usual, dominated the mob spirit.

That sort of thing isn't so unusual. It has happened many times in the south, as well as in the north and other sections. There still remain few newspapers which profess to believe the mob spirit rules most of the south. The Chicago Tribune, in many ways a great newspaper, has always operated the south for many things and especially its occasional lynchings. The Alabama authorities who stopped the incipient lynching elicited praise from the Tribune, and the most generous editorial comment on the south which the Tribune has printed for many a day.

The mob spirit knows no statistics. It breaks out now and then in all climes. Official courage usually can handle it if it's real courage.

can be prevented when the people really set about it. Accordingly, when a lynching does occur the public must wear its disgrace in the sight of all men.

Southwest Americar

FORT SMITH, ARK.

JUL 27 1929

A Lynching Stopped

Officers in Alabama prevented a lynching the other day, by standing firm on their declaration that the law would be enforced. A negro was charged with murdering a white man who was attacked on the road as he was riding with a young woman. The negro was arrested and identified. Mobs formed and threatened a lynching. The authorities refused to let it happen. The negro was tried, convicted and sentenced to be electro-

2901

Lynchings - 1929

Alabama.

2902

Negro Admits Barbour Grand Jury Called Killing Brown In Extra Session After Negro's Confession To Killing Hines

Six Held In Connection
With Choctaw Slaying

GROVE HILL, ALA., May 11.—(Special.)—Following confessions by one of the negroes held in connection with the slaying of Berry Brown who mysteriously disappeared from his home near Lock 2 on the Tombigbee River, Feb. 1, three negroes were sent from Butler to the Clarke County Jail here today for safe keeping. In addition to the three negroes, three white men are held without bond to await the action of the Choctaw County Grand Jury.

The white men held are: Dan Shambarger, Horace Shambarger and Brady Inzor. The negroes are: James Tanner, Morris Chaney and ~~John~~ ^{John} Inzor. The sixth man, Inzor, was arrested Saturday and lodged in jail at Livingston.

When Berry Brown disappeared from his home a systematic search was conducted by hundreds of citizens representing Marengo and Choctaw Counties. It was not until April 19 that the body was found drifted against trees in the swamps ~~near the river below the lock~~ ⁵⁻¹²⁻²⁹. This was after the waters of the recent flood had subsided.

Searchers had watched the river for miles and miles below where they thought the body had been consigned to the stream, hoping that in due course of time the body would come to the surface. When the gruesome find was made it was found that the killers had taken precautions against the corpse ever coming to the surface by disemboweling their victim. It was the swift current of the swollen river which brought their efforts to naught and revealed the crime.

According to Sheriff McVay, the negroes told the full story in County Court, presided over by Judge W. H. Lindsey at Butler, who ordered the men implicated in the crime held without bond.

SIXTH ARREST MADE

Arrests in connection with the killing of Berry Brown, whose bullet marked, mutilated body was found in the Tombigbee River near Lock 2, on April 19, were increased to a total of six late yesterday, when Brady Inzor was taken into custody in Meridian, Miss. Inzor was brought across the state line and lodged in jail at Livingston. Today he will be transferred to Butler, in Choctaw County, where two other white men and three negroes are now being held without bond on charges of murder in the first degree, in the same case. Notice of the arrest of Inzor was received at the office of Atty. Gen. Charlie C. McCall yesterday afternoon.

When they reached his cell and before the door was unlocked Bouyer glancing through the bars recognized Officers Smith and Tranum who brought him to Kilby from Speigner Tuesday morning. Looking directly at them he stated: "I'm ready to talk." Within a few minutes he had begun his confes-

Plans Made For Speedy Trial In Event Of Indictment; Ex-Convict Admits All Charges In Statement To Officers

Circuit Judge J. S. Williams, of Clayton, following the confession of Leslie Bouyer, alias Charlie Harris, negro ex-convict, that he murdered Jack Hines and assaulted and attempted to kill Miss Beatrice Clark near Eufaula last Wednesday night, has issued a call for a special session of the Barbour County Grand Jury to convene next Monday, July 22, to investigate the tragedy.

Judge Williams was quoted as stating that in the event the Grand Jury returns an indictment all arrangements have been made for a speedy trial. T. M. Patterson, circuit solicitor, was in Montgomery yesterday and spent some time in conference with officers who trailed Bouyer day and night prior to his capture.

Seated in a cell in Kilby Prison where he was taken immediately after his capture early Tuesday morning near Speigner Penitentiary by members of the prison staff there, Bouyer yesterday morning related the details of his hideous crime.

The confession was made in the presence of Hamp Draper, head of the State Convict Department; Frank A. Boswell, deputy of Kilby Prison; State Law Enforcement Officers E. Potter Smith and S. E. Tranum, and Chief of Police W. H. McGilvray, of Eufaula.

Throughout, it is stated, the negro gave evidence of nervousness and during a single brief interval wept.

Ready To Talk

Yesterday morning, it is understood, Bouyer appeared anxious to talk and responded readily to questioning by Deputy Warden Boswell. He did not admit the crime to Mr. Boswell, but his restlessness appeared to be growing and the deputy warden immediately communicated this fact to Mr. Draper and to state officers, who proceeded at once with the Eufaula chief of police to the prison.

When they reached his cell and before the door was unlocked Bouyer glancing through the bars recognized Officers Smith and Tranum who brought him to Kilby from Speigner Tuesday morning. Looking directly at them he stated: "I'm ready to talk." Within a few minutes he had begun his confes-

Late Tuesday afternoon Miss Clark, in Eufaula shortly before the murder was positively identified a picture developed during the manhunt and of Bouyer as the likeness of her assailant that without this information Bouyer will not be able to leave the hospital for at least another week, it is understood.

Bouyer is being carefully guarded at Kilby and authorities there are permitting no visitors from outside to enter the prison for the present. Yesterday was regular visiting day, but due to the presence there of Bouyer an order was issued by Mr. Draper that no visitors should be allowed.

NEGRO MAY GET REWARD

It is generally understood and believed that when the time comes for payment of the reward of more than \$600 offered for the arrest and conviction of the murderer of Jack Hines of Eufaula, and the assailant of Miss Beatrice Clark, his young woman companion, that a generous share of this reward will go to Bob Turner, young Eufaula negro, who rendered such valuable aid to officers on the trail of Leslie Bouyer, alias Charlie Harris, who is now being held at Kilby Prison and has confessed to the crime.

Louis Turner, father of Bob Turner, has also assisted officers in the manhunt. Louis who is serving a prison sentence for the theft of a cow in Barbour County, has been granted a temporary parole of 30 days. He will apply to the State Board of Pardons for a permanent parole and it would surprise no one if a permanent parole is subsequently recommended and granted.

While Sheriff John L. Scogin, of Montgomery County, and Chief of Police W. H. McGilvray, of Eufaula, were engaged last week in picking up the trail of the murderer of Mr. Hines, the young negro, Bob Turner, voluntarily came to the Montgomery County sheriff it is stated, and told him he believed the man they were looking for was a negro who had been at his house in Eufaula for several days, and said this negro's name was Charlie Harris. He also identified the shotgun which the Montgomery sheriff had recovered and with which the crime was committed, as one he had seen in the possession of Charlie Harris, and described the manner in which this Charlie Harris was dressed.

Taking Bob Turner with them, the Montgomery sheriff and the Eufaula chief of police brought him to Kilby Prison. There Turner identified a photograph of Charlie Harris, alias Leslie Bouyer, ex-convict, as the Charlie Harris who had been at his house in Eufaula. The elder Turner, a prisoner at Kilby, likewise identified the photograph stating he knew the negro ex-convict.

Bouyer was then believed to be in Montgomery. Bob Turner searched the city for him and prison officials permitted Louis Turner, who is a "trusty" to aid in the search but neither of them was later captured.

It was announced by Arthur Heustess, private secretary to Gov. Graves, that was successful in finding him. However, Hamp Draper, head of the Williams, of Clayton, providing for the holding of Bouyer at Kilby pending trial in that identification by Bob Turner, of the picture of Harris, alias Bouyer as the negro who had been at his home

There Will Be
No Lynching In
Eufaula, Graves

Assurance Is Given That
Alabama Need Expect
No Violence

Feeling Still High
If Indicted, Killer's Case
To Come Up At Once

Regardless of whether Leslie Bouyer, alias Charlie Harris, is tried in Barbour County or elsewhere there is not going to be any lynching Gov. Graves declared last night upon his return from New Hampshire.

Somewhat worn from his tiresome journey Gov. Graves was received at the executive mansion last night, and was informed of developments since his departure.

"The people of Alabama can rest assured that there will be no lynching," Gov. Graves declared. "I will see to that."

Gov. Graves indicated that the full resources of Alabama would be mustered to protect the negro killer if necessary. He said last night that he had not had an opportunity to discuss the situation.

If the Barbour County Grand Jury which convenes in special session at Clayton tomorrow morning, returns an indictment during the day against Bouyer, negro ex-convict who has confessed to murdering Jack Hines and assaulting and attempting to kill Miss Beatrice Clark near Eufaula on the night of July 10 the negro will be placed on trial the following day, Tuesday, the State Executive Department was advised yesterday by Circuit Judge J. S. Williams.

This is in line with the statement by Judge Williams Friday evening regarding reports of the probability of a change of venue in the case, on account of rumors of possible trouble arising from the state of the public mind in Barbour where feeling is said to be intense against Bouyer. Judge Williams said:

"The people of Barbour County are too big to take the law into their own hands. We can handle our own affairs

here and that is what we are going to where he served two terms for burglary and forgery.

The circuit judge, who called the governor's office over long distance telephone yesterday, talked to the chief executive's personal legal adviser, Lawrence H. Lee. Judge Williams recommended for the transfer of the negro from Kilby Prison, where he is now being held, to Clayton for trial, a guard of six law enforcement officers, in charge of Chief Walter K. McAdory, of the State Law Enforcement Department.

Though numerous reports have reached Montgomery of the inflamed state of the feeling of citizens of Barbour and adjoining counties concerning the crime Bouyer has confessed he committed, these reports are discounted by Judge Williams, who believes that the trial can be held at Clayton without trouble or disorder. He has indicated that a lawyer of prominence in Barbour County, will be appointed to defend Bouyer.

Bouyer, against whom threats have been made by other prisoners at Kilby, is being kept under close surveillance in one of the death cells, which are completely isolated from all other cells in the penitentiary. Friday he was taken ill, and for a time ran a high fever, but yesterday the fever had almost disappeared and he had practically recovered, it was stated. The negro had eaten little or nothing for days preceding his capture. It is understood, and his illness was due to overeating following his arrest, it is said.

NEGRO IDENTIFIED AS HINES' SLAYER

Woman Companion, Attacked by Killer, Shown Pictures of Black Arrested In Montgomery.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., July 16. (AP)—Identification of Lester Bouyer, alias Charley Harris, negro, as the slayer of Jack Hines, Eufaula mechanic, and as the attacker of his woman companion last Wednesday night was announced here tonight in advices from state law enforcement officers.

The report which said that Hines' companion had identified pictures of the suspect was made to Governor Graves late today.

The law enforcement officers, B. E. Tranum and Potter Smith, said she also identified a flashlight found in the negro's person as being the property of Hines.

The officers said the negro was not taken to Eufaula for identification purposes because of fear of mob violence.

Bouyer was arrested at the home of a negro woman near the prison

EUFALIA KILLER IS IDENTIFIED BY PRINT OF FINGER

Authorities Fail To Reveal Slayer's Name; Arrest Is Expected Soon

EUFAULA, Ala., July 15—Positive identification of the slayer of Jack Hines, Eufaula mechanic, and attacker of Miss Beatrice Clark, had been established Monday, according to county officers, who declined to reveal his name. They stated that his arrest was expected soon.

The man's identity was established through the negro service station operator, to whom he traded his gun the morning after the slaying, according to members of the sheriff's department. Finger prints on the weapon, taken by Bertillon experts at Speigner Prison, coincide with those of a former convict, whose photo was said to have been recognized by the filling station operator.

The former convict, prison authorities say, has been at liberty following completion of two prison terms, one for eight years for burglary and another for six years.

It also has been definitely established, according to officers, that the slayer was in Montgomery Thursday night after he wrecked Hines' automobile on a highway near here in making his escape.

Gov. Graves announced Monday that in the event of the slayer's arrest, every precaution would be taken against mob violence.

Hines was slain and Miss Clark attacked and seriously wounded by the man, who halted their automobile near Eufaula on the pretense that he wished to borrow money. Miss Clark described the assailant as being a "big burly negro, wearing tan shoes and overalls."

Jurist Denies Eufaula Threat

Negro Slayer Is Safe In Barbour, Says Judge

"The people of Barbour County are too big to take the law into their own hands. We can handle our own affairs here and that is what we are going to do."

That was the reply last night of Judge J. S. Williams, of Clayton, as to the possibility of trouble in event Leslie Bouyer, alias Charlie Harris, returned to Eufaula to face trial for the murder of A. J. Hines and the attack on his 18-year-old companion, Miss Beatrice Clark.

Bouyer is being held in Kilby Prison for safe keeping awaiting action of the Barbour County Grand Jury, which has been called into extra session for Monday by Judge Williams.

Judge Williams resented the implication that feeling in Barbour County was so high as to make the return of the negro for trial there dangerous.

Meanwhile precautions are still being taken at Kilby against the possibility of trouble. The regular visiting hours there have been abolished so long as Bouyer remains there.

NOW LET THE LAW TAKE ITS COURSE!

Now that the author of the gruesome crime in Barbour County by which a young man was cruelly murdered and his girl companion seriously injured, is believed to have been apprehended and lodged safely in Kilby Prison, it is to be hoped that the law may be permitted to run its orderly course. This Negro should be indicted and fairly tried. It will not be difficult to establish his guilt or innocence. If he is innocent no man would wish to take his life lawfully or unlawfully. If he is guilty we may rest assured that he will be promptly executed.

In such trying circumstances the mob spirit runs high, but the mob spirit is a dangerous thing and is always to be deplored and guarded against. Alabama has learned in recent years to restrain the passions of its mobs. This State has made a singularly creditable record in this regard. Lynchings have become fewer and fewer until now it is possible to go year after year without a lynching. Let us not spoil this good record even under the most provoking circumstances.

Negro Aids In NEGRO IDENTIFIED Running Down AS SLAYER BY GIRL Alleged Killer

Alabama Authorities Put Black in Prison for Safe Keeping.

The voluntary aid of a member of his own race has put Leslie Bouyer, alias Charlie Harris, negro suspect in the Eufaula murder, in the condemned cell at Kilby Prison to await his fate.

While officers in the middle eastern section of the state were frantically running down every clue in the hope of discovering the identity of the murderer, a negro boy about 18 years old appeared before a group of officers in Eufaula.

His name, he said, was Bob Turner, Clark had identified pictures of the suspect, was made to Governor Graves late today.

The law enforcement officers, S. E. Tranum and Potter Smith, said Miss Clark also identified a flashlight found on the negro's person at the time of his arrest as being the property of Hines.

The officers said the negro was not taken to Eufaula for identification purposes because of fear of mob violence.

Bouyer was arrested the home of Susie Perkins, a negro woman, almost in the shadow of the prison where he served two terms for burglary and forgery. The arrest was made by State Officers E. P. Smith and S. E. Tranum, who were tipped to Bouyer's whereabouts by guards at the prison.

The negro was hurried to Kilby prison here for safe-keeping, and a short time later was identified by Louis Turner, a Eufaula negro, as the negro that left his home only a short while before Hines was slain and a young woman companion abused and seriously wounded.

Turner also identified the shotgun used in the slaying as one carried by Bouyer when he left his house, officers said.

Search for Bouyer began Saturday when fingerprints on the gun led to recognition of the former convict's photograph by a negro gasoline dealer to whom the gun was traded.

The guard at the prison has been reinforced and officials of the state convict department announced that no visitors would be allowed to enter the prison until the investigation has been completed.

When Bouyer left his home he wore a brown hat and striped overalls, the boy said. The overalls and hat were found in the home of a negro woman where Bouyer was arrested at Speigner yesterday morning.

Yesterday the Turner boy faced Bouyer in Kilby Prison and positively identified him as the man who owned the gun which officers claim has been identified as the gun that killed Hines and wounded Miss Clark.

Bob Turner returned to his home in Eufaula last night, after working for one week with the officers in Montgomery.

He returned with little hope of reward except the everlasting gratitude of the law abiding people of his own race and the citizens of the State of Alabama.

Montgomery, Ala., July 16.—(P)—Identification of Lester Bouyer, alias Charley Harris, negro, as the slayer of Jack Hines, Eufaula mechanic, and as the attacker of Miss Beatrice Clark last Wednesday night, was announced here tonight in advices from state law enforcement officers working on the case.

The report, which said that Miss Clark had identified pictures of the suspect, was made to Governor Graves late today.

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~~Prevented~~
LYNCHING IS THWARTED.

~~Police Captain Out Argues Party
Seeking Negro.~~

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., May 9.—Had it not been for the convincing talk given a delegation of South Hot Springs citizens by Night Capt. Marion Cook, this city, in all probability would have been the scene of a lynching early this morning.

Late last night Captain Cook and Officers Robbins and Scott had arrested G. W. Polk, negro, who was alleged to have entered a residence and attempted to seize a young woman who entered the house, the home of her sister. The young woman noticed the negro in Officer Cook who arrested him that a closet. Neither her sister or any members of the household, she said, were at home when she arrived. As he attempted to pass the closet she claims the negro tried to seize her. She screamed and ran outside and the negro also got away. The young woman said she recognized the negro as one who had done some work for her sister. The negro later was arrested at his home.

Early this morning a delegation of friends and acquaintances of the young woman came to the city jail and demanded the negro. They are said to have been armed. Night out of the door, and addressed the Captain Cook met the party and declined to give up the prisoner. He knew many of the visitors and persuaded them to let the law take its course, to which, after considerable argument, the party agreed and departed.

This morning in municipal court Polk was held in \$2,000 bail for the grand jury. He was unable to make bond. He was charged with burglary and grand larceny. Polk said he had entered the house to steal a gun officers later recovered and intended no attack on the young lady who discovered him.

SAVE 15 YEAR OLD BOY FROM LYNCHING MOB

Officer Persuades Mob to Disperse

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., May 22.—G. W. Polk, a fifteen

year old youth, accused of having

attempted to attack a young woman, early Wednesday afternoon, was saved from a mob bent on lynching him here Wednesday night, by Captain Marion Cook, who was on duty at the local jail at the time the mob appeared on the scene.

The alleged attempted attack occurred when Polk was burglarizing a home in South Hot Springs and was surprised by the woman's entrance. The woman declared that Polk attempted to seize her but fled when she screamed. Polk told Officer Cook who arrested him that a closet. Neither her sister or any members of the household, she said, were at home when she arrived. As he attempted to pass the closet she claims the negro would lead to his arrest.

The charge against the youth was so trivial that no extra steps were taken to protect him and when the mob came to the jail, Captain Cook was alone with his prisoner. The leaders of the mob

demanded that the boy be turned over to them, but Captain Cook refused to do so. Instead he stepped out of the door, and addressed the woul-be lynchers for several minutes, urging them to return to their homes and let the law take its course. After much argument he succeeded in convincing them

that the youth had not attempted to assault the white woman and also convincing them that if any violence were attempted there would be some bloodshed and the mob dispersed.

Polk was charged with burglary and grand larceny and held on a \$2,000 bail which he could not raise.

HOLD SLAYER FROM MOB.

Deputy Sheriff Shoots Lad Attempting Escape.

NEWPORT, Ark., June 17.—George Johnson, 55, married, charged with first degree murder in the killing of Mickey Dillon, 22, steeplejack of El Paso, Texas, at Newport Sunday night, has been located at Batesville where he was spirited by Chief Police Officer Martin, when feeling was running high against Johnson who was a deputy sheriff.

Johnson arrested Dillon Sunday night for drunkenness and had carried him to jail. Dillon broke away from the officer at the door and ran a short distance when Johnson fired two shots which took effect in the youth's side and abdomen. Little chance was held for his life after he reached the hospital where he died at 5 this morning.

It was said a message from the chief of police at Memphis this

Lynchings - 1929

Prevented

EFFORT TO LYNCH NORTHCOTT FAILS AT DOORS OF JAIL

Father of Boys Alleged Slain Is Leader; Sheriff Declares Will Fight To Death.

Riverside, Calif., February 10.—(P) Gordon Stuart Northcott, convicted of slaying three boys on his Wineville, Calif., chicken farm, saw the shadow of an uninvited noose cast on the walls of his cell here early today as 250 men surrounded the jail and N. B. Winslow demanded of Sheriff Clem Sweeters that he be allowed to see the prisoner to get the actual truth.

Through a pall of smoky smoke at 2 o'clock this morning, automobiles suddenly appeared on the streets by the county jail.

Winslow, for the murder of whose sons, Lewis and Nelson, Northcott will be sentenced to hang tomorrow, walked to the jail door and rang the night bell. Sheriff Sweeters and three deputies answered. Winslow offered quit claim deeds to all his property as security that the men would not harm Northcott, and asserted that he wanted to get the truth from the prisoner concerning the burial place of his boys.

Five armed men had advanced from the crowd in the street, and followed Winslow into the jail.

"I know we are outnumbered 50 to one," Sheriff Sweeters said, "but you men can get Northcott only over our bodies. We are here to safeguard the prisoner. The same law which demands that we do that, will take Northcott's life. Bloodshed now would be foolish."

Northcott, who had been awakened by the noise, began shrilly pleading for protection.

"Sheriff, we believe you are right," Winslow said, after conferring with the others in the corner of the jail waiting room, and he shook hands with Sweeters and left the jail. The mob shortly dispersed.

Sheriff Sweeters summoned 20 additional deputies and a constant vigil was maintained throughout the night. None of the crowd returned.

California

2908

Lynchings - 1929

Prevented

Lynching Stopped By Brave Officers

Rigid Dealing Prevents a Blemish on Record of Law Enforcement

PARIS—An example of French law enforcement is revealed in a story which comes from the little town of Nantouin, which tells of the heroism of a small group of French policemen stopping a mob of 2,000 persons from lynching three alleged murderers named Pillard, Thomas and Fougere.

The three had been accused by public gossip, fortified by some circumstantial evidence, of having murdered two villagers in December, 1917. As time passed the gossip grew more pronounced and the men were arrested. On March 6, under a police escort, they were taken to ~~the~~ where Fougere said the police would find the body of one of the murdered men buried in Thomas's garden.

No body was found, but during the digging a crowd of about 2,000 persons assembled, watched the operations and, raising a cry of "Death to the assassins!" made a rush to seize the prisoners, and in the struggle which followed blows were given and received on both sides. The police with drawn swords finally surrounded the prisoners and returned them to jail in the Mairie, pursued by the mob. Reinforcements finally dispersed the mob. In commenting on the affair, the papers in praising the magistrate and the police for their bravery add that such a scene is quite unusual in France.

Europe

2910

Lynchings-1929

Prevented

NEGRO ATTACKER GETS LONG TERM

Pleading guilty to attempted criminal assault on a white woman, Henry Daniel, negro, has been sentenced to nineteen and a half years in the penitentiary by Judge Z. A. Littlejohn, holding court in Stewart county.

The negro is alleged to have attacked a married woman in her Richland house several weeks ago. He was brought here for safekeeping and was taken back to Stewart county a few days ago for trial.

NEGRO YOUTH ARRESTED FOR ATTACKING WOMAN

Americus, Ga., March 9.—(Special.)—Henry Daniel, a negro boy about 19 years old, was arrested near Richland this morning and is charged with having attacked young married woman of Richland at daylight today. The alleged attack took place in the home of the young woman in Richland.

County Police Officers Cosby and Harvey, of Sumter county, carried a brace of bloodhounds to Webster county and assisted in the hunt for Daniel, who was rushed to Columbus for safekeeping following his arrest.

According to information received here this afternoon, Daniel hid himself in the home of his victim, and after her husband departed made the attack. The young woman fought her attacker during several minutes and was severely choked and bruised during the resulting struggle. Finally the negro became frightened and ran off before neighbors who had been aroused by the young woman's screams reached the scene.

Officers Norman Marshal and Cliff Tomlin, of Richland, and Ben Edwards, a railway detective, arrested Daniels and carried the negro to the Muscogee county jail for safekeeping, although no serious threats of violence were heard.

Georgia

2904

NEGRO IS HELD IN UNKNOWN JAIL AFTER ATTACK AT ALAMO IS KILLED

Waycross, Ga., July 31. (AP)—Willie Bryant, negro turpentine worker, who is alleged to have attacked a young white woman Monday, was arrested by possemen last night and was being held today in a jail, whose location was not disclosed by Ware county officers.

The attacker entered the woman's home 13 miles from here, during her husband's absence and beat her until she became unconscious.

Doctor Prevents

Colored Mob

Lynching Negro Constitution

Cordelle, Ga., May 30.—(Special.)—Respect for Dr. Loren Williams, Crisp county commissioner and large farm operator at Raines, prevented the lynching today of a young negro, Abraham Saddler, by negroes when they surrounded him in Dr. Williams' car at Raines on the way to Crisp county jail.

The young negro was alleged to have attempted an attack on an aged negro woman on the Cork ferry road but she beat him with a stick and called for help till she frightened him away.

He was captured at Warwick by William Hayship and two negroes, Cap Price and Elmo Jones. They delivered the negro to Dr. Williams and, promising to protect him, he got a confession after the victim identified the negro. When Dr. Williams started to jail with his charge, an angry mob swirled about his car for some minutes at Raines, but his word that the negro would get a speedy trial and a reminder to the mob that Dr. Williams had promised to protect the prisoner, served to balk violence.

Dr. Williams is held in high esteem by the negroes on all the large farms in the community.

NEGRO TRANSFERRED TO JAIL AT AUGUSTA

SAVANNAH, Ga., Sept. 23.—(AP)—George "Buster" Lovett, Negro charged with attacking a white woman in Jenkins county and held in the county jail here since September 14 for safe keeping, was taken to Augusta, Ga., today by Deputy Sheriffs A. A. Derville and R. E. Hall of Jenkins county. The move, it was understood at the jail here, was to circumvent habeas corpus proceedings that might have been brought here seeking Lovett's freedom from Chatham county jail.

Negro Slayer, Captured, Is Believed To Be Near Death.

ALAMO, Ga., Dec. 26.—(Special.)—H. Fields, operator of a gas filling station, was shot to death here Wednesday night by Homer Davis, negro, after an argument following the negro's alleged refusal to pay for some gasoline.

After following the negro to some, it is said that Fields was struck over the head with a barrel stave. He drew his pistol but the negro took from him and Fields was shot three times. As he fell Fields produced a second pistol and fired three times at the negro before he died.

The negro fled and was later captured by a posse of several hundred persons led by the sheriff of Wheeler county. The negro is thought to be dying. Precautions to prevent violence have been taken by the sheriff's forces.

Mr. Fields was a prominent citizen here and had been at one time city marshal, which office he held three years. He will be buried at Mount Moriah churchyard cemetery at 2 o'clock Friday afternoon.

Lynchings—1929

Illinois.

2909

Prevented.
**ATTEMPTED
LYNCING
IN ILLINOIS**

PARIS, Ill., July 3.—(A. N.¹ P.) — Efforts were made here Tuesday night, by a large group of Negro citizens to remove William H. McAmy, charged with attacking a young colored girl here, Monday, from the jail and lynch him.

McAmy, who is alleged to hail from Chicago, was arrested Monday and placed in the local jail. Tuesday night the ire of the citizens had reached such a pitch that the talk of lynching the assailant of the girl was suggested on every corner and later a group appeared at the jail and demanded the prisoner. The jailer succeeded in dissuading from their intention and the mob dispersed. Wednesday night found extra guards on duty to protect the prisoner as the anger of the citizens had not cooled one whit.

Lynchings - 1929

Kentucky.

2911

Prevented.
Rush Another Prisoner.

Away From Hopkinsville

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky., Mar. 28.—(A. N. P.)—"Rushing prisoners away" from here seems to be the order of the day. For the third time within the past two or three weeks, a Negro prisoner, charged with attacking a white woman, was rushed to another town Tuesday when Frank Williams was spirited out of town to prevent mob violence.

Williams was arrested in Springfield, Tenn., and brought back to this city Monday night. After a secret session was held by Sheriff S. L. Cowherd and Attorney John T. King, the prisoner was removed from the local jail and carried elsewhere. Officers refuse to tell where he was carried because of the fear that an effort will be made to lynch him.

3/30/29

Louisiana.

2912

Lynchings-1929

Prevented

MURDERER

FROM LYNCH

Gus Kavanagh, La.

RUSTON, La., Oct. 10.—(A. N. P.)—To avoid mob violence, which seemed almost certain, officers removed Gus Robinson, his wife and sister, to an "unknown place," early Wednesday morning.

Robinson is suspected of killing John Cavanaugh, a white merchant, last Saturday night, and his wife and sister have been implicated. He was arrested Sunday morning and Tuesday the report was circulated that he had confessed to the killing, which occurred when the white man went to the Negro section to see about a former employee.

The report of the confession aroused the ire of the white citizens and a lynching was in the air. Fearing that the threat would be carried out, the officers removed the prisoners and refused to disclose

TRIPLE SLAYERS FROM MUE

Three Negroes Spirited From Jail

by Louisiana Sheriff.

RUSTON, La., Sept. 30.—(AP)—Guarding against possible violence Sheriff A. J. Thigpen and his deputies ~~removed~~^{expelled} three negroes being held in connection with the slaying of John Kavanagh, Clay merchant from Lincoln Parish jail here to an "unknown" lodging awaiting a thorough investigation of the case, ~~as arranged~~ today.

With public sentiment running high against Gus Robinson, confessed slayer of Kavanagh and half-sister, also implicated in the killing, officers said they intended to avoid trouble.

The Lincoln Parish grand jury was ordered to convene Tuesday to examine the facts in the killing.

Kavanagh was slain last Friday night in a fight with negroes when he went to a farm section to see about the return of a negro hand to work on his plantation.

Lynchings - 1929

Maryland

2913

Prevented

ANNAPOLIS LYNCHERS FOILED BY POLICE

Two Prisoners Removed to Baltimore Jail

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Foiled by two city policemen, 100 white men from Churchton, West River and Deal, Anne Arundel County were prevented from breaking into the county jail here to lynch Andrew Holland, 17, charged with assaulting an aged white couple.

James Holland, an older brother was also arrested and the two removed to Baltimore City Jail Monday.

The plan of the lynchers was to gather outside the city at midnight, go in a body to attack the jail, remove the prisoner and carry him to the scene of the alleged crime for a lynching party.

Mayor Queenstadt was informed of a crowd around the jail before the main body arrived, and stationed two policemen at the entrance.

Holland denies the attack.

Lynchings - 1929

Prevented

YOUTH IS SPIRITED AWAY AFTER SLAYING

Fear Mob Violence for Killer
of Mechanic

Commercial Appeal

COLUMBIA, Miss., Feb. 24.— Signs of intense feeling last night caused county officers to take the youth to the Forest County jail at Hattiesburg for safe keeping.

Small groups of Butler's friends were seen gathering on the streets here shortly after the slaying, and Sheriff W. B. Waldrop sent his prisoner away before any violence was shown.

Surrenders After Shooting.

Thomas, filling station employee, is charged with fatally shooting Butler, chief mechanic for the Hart Motor Company, at the filling station last night. Butler, with Mrs. Henry Lower and her daughter, drove into the filling station and asked for water for the car. Thomas, it is said, appeared sullen and told them he would give them service when he was ready. Heated argument in which a sister of Thomas is said to have also engaged and in which Thomas is said to have cursed Butler followed, and Butler is said to have alighted from the automobile, remarking that he could not stand the abuse. As he went toward Thomas, it is reported that the filling station employee pulled a gun and shot Butler four times. Thomas then went to the courthouse and surrendered to county authorities.

While being taken to Hattiesburg, Sheriff Waldrop said that the youth declared he did not know why he had shot Butler, that they had been friends for some time and that he held no grudge against his victim.

Butler is survived by three sisters and two brothers. He will be buried here.

Thomas is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Pink Thomas of the Sandhook community, 18 miles of here.

A date for the preliminary hearing has not been set.

SAVE ALLEGED SLAYERS.

Trio Held in Jackson to Prevent

Violence At Bay St. Louis.

GULFPORT, Miss., April 8.— Sheriff J. C. Jones of Hancock County left here for Jackson yesterday with Harvey Seals, Henry Winston and Fred Simmons, bound over to Hancock County circuit court at Bay St. Louis

justice of the peace late Saturday on charges of murder in connection with the fatal shooting of Philip Peterson, 21, near Fenton, in Hancock County, north of Bay St. Louis, Wednesday afternoon.

The men were brought to Harrison County jail at Gulfport Thursday to avoid possible mob violence. Peterson is alleged to have been shot by Seals, after Peterson resisted the alleged hi-jacking of 25 gallons of liquor by the trio, after they had eaten dinner at the Peterson house.

ONE MAN FOILS LYNCHING

Calmness of Member of Posse Saved Negro Attacker.

BILOXI, Miss., Feb. 20.—What may have resulted in the lynching of a negro in the same section of the country last night was foiled by the calmness of one man and the timely arrival of others following an attack upon Mrs. Lucien Terrell, an aged woman, a resident of Oak Street.

Creo Reid, a young negro, who was identified by Mrs. Sowell as her assailant, is held in the Biloxi city jail without bond until police can complete their investigation. Mrs. Terrell was found an invalid, was at home alone when Reid entered her home, grabbed and started to choke her, and then proceeded to drag her out the door when she screamed and attracted the attention of neighbors.

The alarm immediately spread and the negro fled, and in a few minutes a large posse was formed. The man hunt began through the neighborhood. The negro hid several times but was found. Finally he broke out in a run down the street. Two youths, W. Gallotte and A. Clemmons, about 16 years old, and members of the school football team, ran him down, tackling him and holding him until the members of the posse arrived. Several shots were fired at the negro as he fled, one shattering a window in one of the homes in the neighborhood.

Feeling had by this time been agitated to so high a pitch that it was at first thought the negro would be lynched before police arrived, but for the arguments of one of the posse the negro probably would have lost his life. Upon the arrival of the officers the negro called to them begging for protection.

A date for the preliminary hearing has not been set.

HIDES MORGAN AFTER THREATS OF VIOLENCE

Commercial Appeal
Sheriff Takes Alleged Slayer From Hernando Jail.

7-6-29

MRS. SOWELL IS BURIED

Commercial Appeal
Worthy Alphaba, Miss., Planter Will Be Given Preliminary Hearing Next Thursday on Charge of Murder.

Threats of mob violence spread throughout De Soto County, Mississippi yesterday and Lloyd Morgan, wealthy Alphaba, Miss., planter and alleged slayer of the woman, was spirited away from the Hernando jail.

For the second time, Morgan was arrested yesterday morning for the murder of Mrs. Mattie Sowell, 47, shot down in the road near her home at Cockrum Sunday. Shortly after he had been placed in jail, reports reached the sheriff that mobs were forming at Alphaba and Cockrum intent upon taking Morgan from the jail.

Feeling has been running high against Morgan since the shooting of Mrs. Sowell, which the planter denies, and when the reports of mobs continued to filter into Hernando, measures to protect the safety of the man were taken.

Taken to Another Jail.

He was secretly removed from the jail at noon by Sheriff R. C. Clifton and Chief Deputy D. R. Lauderdale and removed to another jail, the location of which had not been determined last night. His removal from the jail preceded the funeral of Mrs. Sowell by but a few hours.

Morgan has been twice charged with the murder of the woman tenant. He was arrested Monday charged with shooting with intent to kill and released on \$1,000 bond. Wednesday afternoon a report that Mrs. Sowell had died was received in Hernando, and Morgan was arrested, charged with murder. He was held until Thursday morning and again released on his previous bond, when it was learned that the report was false. Mrs. Sowell

died Thursday afternoon in the Baptist Hospital, just a few hours after Morgan had been released.

Arrested Third Time.

The planter was arrested yesterday morning for the third time and held in the jail until noon. Date for his preliminary hearing was set as Thursday before Magistrates McCall and Jones in Hernando.

At this hearing it will be the testimony of nine-year-old Sadie Sowell upon which will rest the state's hope of holding Morgan for trial. The child was with her mother Sunday afternoon and tells a vivid story of the incident, naming Morgan as the slayer of her mother.

Sadie says that Morgan stopped them and demanded a small sum of money from Mrs. Sowell, which was alleged to have been owed him as a share in crops. Her mother promised to pay, Sadie says, and Morgan drove on. He returned in a few minutes and attempted to get Mrs. Sowell into his car.

Neighbors Backs Story.

She refused and, according to the child, Morgan hit her with the butt of his pistol and as the woman lay in the road, shot her through the abdomen. A neighbor, William Hunter, is said to have witnessed the shooting and tells a story which bears out that of the child.

Mrs. Sowell was taken to the Baptist Hospital by friends Sunday night. Wednesday morning, Sheriff Clifton obtained a statement from her and from Sadie. He has not made public the contents of Mrs. Sowell's statement.

Funeral services for Mrs. Sowell were held at 1:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon at Cockrum. Interment was made in Greenleaf Cemetery in Tate County, a short distance from Cockrum. Thompson Brothers were in charge.

Members of Mrs. Sowell's family have stated that they will employ counsel to aid County Attorney Pollard and District Attorney Thompson in the prosecution of the case. Morgan has retained the firm of Logan and Barbee of Hernando.

Negro Held For White's Murder

LEXINGTON, MISS., Dec. 15.—(P)—With a posse close on his heels, Sheriff W. L. Ellis and a squad of deputies early today successfully escaped with Sammy Pace, negro, suspected of the murder of Noel C. White, farmer and chairman of the Mississippi State Democratic Executive Committee whose bloody body was found in a ditch near one of his farms.

The negro was arrested in his cabin on White's farm after bloodhounds had led a mob of a thousand men to his home and stood outside the door baying.

A. L. White, deputy sheriff of Clarkdale, and owner of the dogs, said his hounds went straight to the negro's cabin and paid no attention to a negro woman who answered the door but bristled and barked when Pace appeared. Officers said the negro could not give a satisfactory account of himself and he was slipped away from the mob and secreted in an unannounced jail.

White was killed Saturday on the edge of a timber tract on one of his farms. Officials believe he was slain when he protested the cutting of timber by negro tenants. He was shot and his body thrown in a ditch.

New York.

2914

Lynchings - 1929

Prevented.

Cry of "Lynch Him"

Heard in City Streets

Ansterdam news
Infuriated white mob severely beat one colored man and threatened to lynch another here last week.

It required six policemen from the Simpson street station to rescue George Merchant, 37, 950 Aldus street, near Hoe avenue, from a mob of 500 men and women who were seeking Friday night to take Merchant from his basement home where he had locked himself in.

He was accused of beating a white boy, Robert Reiff, 13, 992 Southern boulevard, following an altercation between Reiff's five-year-old brother, Carl, and Merchant's nine-year-old son, George. Merchant was taken to the police station and charged with assault.

Newspaper
After being severely beaten by an angry mob at Houston and Mott streets, Richard Palin, 22, 216 Main avenue, Staten Island, was saved by the police, and is now a prisoner in Bellevue Hospital on a charge of felonious assault. In running from a fight Palin accidentally fell on six-year-old Lydia Sica, white, 293 Mott street. The child was removed to a hospital.

Lynchings - 1929.

Prevented
**Irate Carolinians Attempt
To Lynch Labor Organizer
After Killing of Policeman**

**Group of Twelve Disperse
As Officers Outtalk Effort at Mob Law; Deputy Is Shot.**

Gastonia, N. C., June 9.—(P)—After a wild ride from Spartanburg, S. C., during which only the ability of two city policemen and a city councilman to outtalk the leaders of a crowd of 12 men saved him from possible lynching, Fred Erwin Beal, southern organizer for National Textile Workers Union, today was in a county jail "somewhere in North Carolina." With him was K. O. Byers, who was arrested with him at Spartanburg, on charges of complicity in the murder of Chief of Police O. F. Aderholt, of Gastonia.

Beal and Byers, arrested at the request of local police, were en route from Spartanburg to jail in charge of City Councilman Robert Craig and Patrolmen H. C. Jackson and Thomas Rankin, when the officers were stopped by 12 men in South Gastonia. The men, officers reported, demanded Beal and Byers. The officers and the city councilman refused to give up the prisoner and began talking to the leaders of the crowd. Finally the officers were allowed to proceed with their prisoner.

Prisoners Secreted.

While the funeral of Chief Aderholt was being held at the First Baptist church late today deputy sheriffs and police continued their search for residents of the tent colony. During a chase late today after a man believed to be one of the strikers, Deputy Sheriff George Moore was slightly wounded by buckshot from a riot gun. The shooting, Moore said, was accidental. The name of the deputy who fired the shot was not learned.

Fearing possible efforts by mobs to get men under arrest and known to have been leaders of the strikers or guards about the tent colony, county and city officers today shuffled their prisoners about from jail to jail. Louis McLaughlin, identified as the man who fired the shot that struck Patrolman Charles Ferguson, and Charles W. Carter, of Mizpah, N. J., the camp guard who first accosted the officers when they entered the tent colony to investigate a fist fight, were removed from the Lincoln county jail to another and stronger prison.

Approximately 5,000 persons attended the funeral of the slain police chief this afternoon, but only about 1,000 of them could get into the church. The others stood outside the church in a light rain.

North Carolina.

2915

Investigate Blazes.

A total of 65 persons were in various jails and in other cities tonight held in connection with the investigation of the shooting. All of those arrested were charged with assault with intent to kill when arrested. Police officials said that warrants against perhaps a score of the persons held would be changed to murder.

Just when the prisoners will be given hearings was not known tonight. City officials said that they would be postponed until feeling had somewhat died down and they could be brought into the recorder's court without danger.

Governor O. Max Gardner at Raleigh, who on Friday night instructed local officials to use every means to handle the situation without calling out troops has been receiving periodic reports from local national guard officers. The situation tonight, however, was such that no report was expected to be made.

Two fires which broke out in the Loray mill village a few blocks from the scene of Friday night's shooting were being investigated by police and fire marshals today. One building was the home of a woman who was reported to have been supplying food for workers who remained at the mill. She told police she had received threatening letters.

Lynchings - 1929
Prevented.

Pennsylvania

2916

PHILLY MOB TRIES TO LYNCH BOY HELD BY POLICE

White Boy Had Been Shot In Row Between White and Colored Boys

Age
Philadelphia, Pa.—Another evidence of racial antipathy in this city was seen Monday when a gang of white hoodlums attempted to take a young Negro boy, James Hinton, from custody of the police after he had been arrested, charged with shooting one of five whites who had assailed Hinton and three companions at the corner of 35th street and Haverford avenue.

Hinton was arrested by Police Captain Carl Larue, and a detective and two firemen had fought off the mob which attempted taking him from custody to lynch him.

Hinton, with Robert Buck, and Clarence Woolfolk, both 17, with another companion, were passing the corner when Edward Ford, 20, Edward McIntyre and Jesse Rommel, both 22, and two unidentified companions, interfered with them. In the altercation which ensued, a pistol was fired and Ford was wounded in the head. He died later in the Presbyterian Hospital.

Buck and Woolfolk were arrested late, and Hinton and Buck told the police that Woolfolk had fired the shot.

Lynchings - 1929

Prevented

LYNCHING NARROWLY AVERTED

Courier

NASHVILLE, Tenn., July 3—(A. N. P.)—Tully Wright, a 20-year-old youth, was rushed here Tuesday morning from Hickman county to save him from being lynched by a mob, after he was found guilty of assaulting a white woman.

The alleged rape is supposed to have been perpetrated Saturday night, but the white woman, who was the victim, was reported so frightened that she did not report the affair until Sunday morning.

Wright was arrested Sunday afternoon and tried Monday morning and was found guilty. The defendant brought in four witnesses to prove that he was not the man who committed the rape, but they were afraid to testify in his behalf, fearing that they would be lynched, too.

When the report was circulated that Wright had been found guilty the ire of the whites began to rise, and a mob was formed. Realizing that a lynching was in the making, the Hickman county officers removed the prisoner from the county jail and rushed him here for safe-keeping.

Wright was much relieved when he arrived here safely and was assured that he would be given protection. He maintained his innocence in a statement to local officers.

SAVE NEGRO FROM MOB

Citizens Hide Man Suspected of Assault Upon Woman

BLYTHEVILLE, Aug. 5.—Rumors of the attempted lynching of a negro, believed to have assaulted a white woman living near Dell, Saturday, were current here Sunday and today.

Sheriff W. W. Shaffer and members of his force were twice called to Dell, eight miles west of here, but citizens of that town had already spirited the negro, held in custody, to a safe hiding place. The negro has not been placed under arrest, and it is said that he will be freed as soon as the intense feeling

Tennessee.

2917

dies away. A white man is suspected of the alleged attack and an arrest is likely to be made within a short time.

The woman claims that she was attacked while walking along the Dell highway to her home.

Witnesses

*Are Afraid
to Testify*

NEGRO YOUTH SPIRITED AWAY TO PREVENT LYNCHING

Nashville, Tenn., July 3—Tully Wright, a 20-year-old youth, was rushed here Wednesday morning from Hickman County to save him from being lynched by a mob. He was found guilty of assaulting a white woman.

The alleged rape is supposed to have been perpetrated Saturday night, but the white woman, who was the victim, was so frightened that she did not report the affair until Sunday morning.

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Negro Admits He Killed 3 After 'Losing Temper'

KNOXVILLE, TENN., Dec. 27.—(AP)—woman he married went to the court house, obtained a license and were married. They then returned to the home coat of one of his victims. Theodore Harris, 23-year-old negro houseman, today confessed to slaying Dr. Barclay J. Jones, his wife and their nephew at their home here Christmas.

The negro's confession was made less than 12 hours after he was taken into custody for questioning. At first he denied knowledge of the slaying, but when confronted with the overcoat and watch found in the house of his wife, whom he married yesterday, he admitted slaying the trio "because I got mad."

Atty. Gen. J. Fred Bibb, of Knox County, has announced that he will ask for a special session of the Grand Jury to present the confession and other evidence and if an indictment is returned Harris probably will be brought to trial early in January.

The negro, who had been employed by the physician for about a week as houseman, told officers that he and the boy George Lane, Jr., 13, were playing in the cellar about 4 p.m. the day before Christmas making toy airplanes, and that the boy became abusive.

"He cursed me and called me a negro," Harris said, "and I got mad. The boy was kneeling on the floor holding an airplane and I picked up a pipe and hit him over the head, then finished him off with an ax." 12/28/29

After killing the boy, Harris told officers he went upstairs where Mrs. Jones was dressing and entered her room. "She ran for the phone," the negro said, "and I knocked it down and dragged her to the cellar and hit her with the ax."

The negro said he threw a lump of coal at Mrs. Jones's head as she lay on the floor dazed from a gash in her head. Harris said he changed clothes and packed his suitcase and then made round of the house locking doors and putting out all lights except one on the front porch.

"I decided I might as well kill the doctor, too," the negro said, and took of hiding in the garage for about an hour until Dr. Jones arrived. Harris said as Dr. Jones stepped from his car, "I grabbed him and hugged him and threw him down. I hit him in the face."

After killing the physician, the negro said he came to Knoxville and spent the night at the home of another negro. He said he told Gertrude Kelly, a negro, what he had done and she advised him to leave town, but he "decided not to and to get married."

The following day he said he and the

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woman he married went to the court house, obtained a license and were married. They then returned to the home of her parents where he was arrested early today. His wife and her parents told him to leave town, Harris said, after he had told them that he had killed the Jones family. Asked by officers why he hadn't left, Harris was unable to give any particular reason.

A short time after his confession was announced the negro was removed to Chattanooga for safe keeping, although there had been no indication of violence toward him here. Officers said it was merely a precautionary step.

The body of Dr. Jones was found in his garage by a relative Christmas morning and those of Mrs. Jones and the boy were found in the cellar of the house. Harris was missing and a search was instituted for him.

Late yesterday one of the city detectives learned of the marriage license and early today went to the house of the woman named in the records and found Harris.

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